

THE JOURNAL

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Sports St. Mary's boys take state Division IV title [C1]

Arts Jack Tucker looks at Impact Theatre, Berkeley Opera offerings [C3]



STUDENTS PRACTICE their moves during the 2001 Capoeira Anyola Women's Conference at Mills College on March 10.

STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF

Martial art mixes cultures, elements

Music, dance, song and self-defense combine in Capoeira Angola, which has an African-Brazilian origin

By Stephanie Wright
STAFF WRITER

Seven women casually outfitted in white shirts, pants and shoes seat themselves at the front of a dance studio in the Haas Pavilion at Mills College. Each one possesses a musical instrument. As one woman begins to tick a berimbau, a simple, one-stringed instrument with a gourd attached, the room resonates with its raspy sound. As she begins to sit, the women shake a baxixi, a small wooden rattle filled with Brazilian beans, the other women accompany

One softly plays an atabaque, a wooden African drum adorned with ropes, while others hold tambores or slide a stick along corrugated pipes. Members of the audience, seated cross-legged on the floor, move and sway to the music's mesmerizing rhythm. Then, Paulinha (Paula Cristina da Silva), begins a cor-

ridos (a song) in the African tradition of calling and responding. The audience answers, filling the small space with a powerful array of voices.

Two women, also dressed in white, take to the floor between the musicians and the audience and begin a capoeira "game," a graceful mix of dance and martial arts. Each goes through a series of fluid movements — moving their bodies in a circular fashion from their hands to their feet. Then, one stands on her hands and finally slips through the other's legs. The two finish by gently embracing.

It's all part of a roda, an integral part of Capoeira Angola, an African-Brazilian martial arts form that incorporates self-defense, dance, music and song. Created by black slaves who were taken to Brazil to work the sugar plantations there from countries including Angola, Guinea and Congo, people throughout the world still practice the art today.

This particular roda, which took place last Friday, marked the beginning of the "Voices of Women," 2001 Capoeira Angola Women's Conference, a three-day event sponsored by the International Capoeira Angola Foundation. Although the roda,



STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF

AN INVERTED Erik Chappins (who prefers to be called Casquinha), and Maria Eduarda practice at the conference.

classes and other activities were led by and focused upon women, the event welcomed both women and men who traveled from locations such as New Orleans, New York,

England and Brazil to attend.

"It's a form of expression and improvisation," says Ruby Tucker, an

See CAPOERIA, Page A11

An avenue divided

■ Albany rejects improvement assessment proposal for Solano Avenue

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The City Council voted unanimously to deny the Solano Avenue Association \$5,000 to investigate the possibility of creating a new Business Improvement District (BID) along Solano Avenue.

"I'm surprised, I thought I had the council's support," said association director Lisa Bullwinkle after a meeting Monday night. "There are a lot of people getting free rides (under

the current system.)"

The issue divided both property owners and business people at the meeting, a fact that some said was unfortunate but unavoidable.

"This has generated an us versus them mentality. I hate to see that," lamented one Solano Avenue Association member.

If a new assessment went into effect, the city would have had to pay an additional \$15,000, and the total amount would eventually be paid back to the city through fees collected by the district.

But if the city had backed a survey, only to find the majority of business owners were against a new as-

See SOLANO, Page A10

Call for aggressive action on development

■ Report cites office and other areas with potential; calls for reactivating redevelopment

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Thank you very much; it's a great study, but it's time we quit studying and start doing.

That was pretty much the message at this week's City Council meeting after the council received a commercial market assessment report sponsored by the Economic Development Board. The report is the first phase of plans to develop and implement an economic development plan for the city.

"We love to study," said Councilwoman Gina Brusatori, "...but at some point you have to quit analyzing and you have to actually stick your neck out of the turtle shell and say what is it that you want to get done — and get it done."

Prepared by consultants McGill Martin Self Inc. of Walnut Creek, the \$20,000 report contains demographic

and socioeconomic data about El Cerrito and analyzes retail sales trends and office and hotel potential in the city.

It says that about 13 percent of the city's retail sales potential is spent at businesses outside the city. In 1999 this "sales leakage" amounted to an estimated \$32 million according to the report.

An office assessment indicates there is demand for office space in the city. "There currently exists a strong demand for office space in this portion of the East Bay from Emeryville to Pinole," the report notes, but adds: "However, the lack of land availability and the current lack of identification of the city as an office address are constraints that must be overcome to achieve a successful office development program."

Vacancy rates for office space are about 2 percent and the city is projected to have a net office demand of just under 500,000 square feet.

Thomas Williams, principal economist for McGill Martin Self, told the council that the hotel market, after taking into account existing and planned hotels, is saturated and that

See REPORT, Page A10

New Plaza buildings starting to take shape

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — There's the action in the Plaza buildings. A walk around the Plaza construction site reveals that things are happening there. Cinder-block walls are going up, cement trucks come and go, scaffolding rails are in place and masons are busy.

"We're looking at those first buildings starting to go up and we're really smiling about it," said Patrick Montoya, owner of Plaza Beauty Supplies & Salon. Montoya has been doing business at the Plaza for 2-1/2

years and is looking forward to a reconstructed Plaza and the customers it will bring. "We've put our hard work, money and time into this place," Montoya said. "In this industry you need walk-by."

Peter Knoedler, the Plaza's project manager with Regency Realty, says that construction is on track as scheduled. "We're moving ahead, as you can see the buildings are going up," Knoedler said. "What you see out there right now is the Old Navy building — the shell is pretty much done. Now the masons are working on the Ross building and also the Bed Bath & Beyond."

The Old Navy and Bed Bath & Beyond buildings are the ones directly north (and a bit west) of the Longs Drug store and the Ross building is going up in the northeast corner of the Plaza near the existing R&R Auto Service. Knoedler said the Gap building planned along San Pablo Avenue will be the next structure going up.

See PLAZA, Page A10

Albany teachers reject contract offer

■ They say it falls short of previous offers; contract talks collapse for the third time since September

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Representatives of the Albany Teachers Association (ATA) rejected an interim agreement Tuesday that would have given teachers an 8 percent pay raise, effective January of this year.

It was the third time an offer was almost reached since last July, increasing an already tense situation between teachers and district officials. Members on both sides of the bargaining table thought that recently announced budget cuts brought the district closer to an agreement.

But the deal was "unacceptable," according to ATA president Dave De Hart, who noted that the retroactive

raise would only hike teacher salaries 4 percent this year.

Beginning teachers alone would have gotten a raise for the full 2000-01 school year, with their salaries bumped up to a minimum of \$34,000 retroactive to July 1, 2000.

An offer rejected last July would have given teachers an extra 7.5 percent this year. In November, a second agreement was brought to the table offering a raise of 10 percent retroactive to October, but that was rejected by the district.

"Obviously, I'd like to see a settlement of some sort," said school Board member Bill Cain. He remained more optimistic about latest setback, saying it was part of the "ebb and flow" of the negotiation process.

According to a statement put out by the district, the parties have until May 21 to come to an agreement.

Tension between the sides has been growing since last November, when the second tentative agreement was turned down. Since then, hundreds of teachers, parents and other residents have fed the fire by continuing to show up at board meet-

ings, which have sometimes ended with clapping, horn-blowing and shouts of "Where's the money?"

Teachers have picketed in front of schools and distributed the numbers and e-mails of board members. Students joined the fray with their own protest last December, and some parents have placed signs in windows in their cars and homes.

As Rich Salsbury, a teacher of 27 years, put it, "It's all about tactics."

Currently, beginning teachers with credentials in Albany make \$31,204, while teachers at the top of the scale make \$61,262, putting the district at the lower end of the salary scale in the Bay Area.

An ending balance this year was projected at about \$600,000, enough for a 4 percent raise across the board. Assistant Superintendent Walter Wallace pointed out that each 1 percent salary increase for the city's 200 teachers will cost the district about \$102,000.

At the heart of the financial problem is the district's low student-teacher ratio, negotiation chair Susan Charlip said at last week's board meeting.

When teachers got wind that talks might be breaking down last Thursday, some 50 of them showed up at the district's office wearing pink paper cutouts in the shape of slips on their shirts in support of those who were laid off (pink slipped) last week.

Cuts had been made in science, the arts, math, language and physical education, with the bulk of cuts coming to programs at the high school.

"We were really expecting an agreement today," said Miriam Walden while awaiting word outside last week's meeting. She has been emailing some 260 parents and coordinating child care for a group of people attending the recent board meetings.

She wasn't the only one keeping her fingers crossed.

District representatives also hoped to finalize an agreement March 20, but ATA leaders opposed some of the language in the tentative contract, namely the lack of a commitment to raise salaries to the Alameda and Contra Costa County

See CONTRACT, Page A12

INDEX

• Ovation	Page A4
• Martin Snapp	Page A5
• Schools	Page A9
• Community Folk	Page A10
• Crossword	Page C6

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

ECDC meeting

The public is invited to attend a March 27 presentation on proportional representation and instant runoff elections that will be sponsored by the El Cerrito Democratic Club. It will take place at 8 p.m., following the 7:30 p.m. general business meeting of the club, at the Northminster Presbyterian Church on 545 Ashbury Avenue in El Cerrito. The guest speaker will be Rod Latham, who serves as vice president of Californians for Proportional Representation and as a board member of the Oakland League of Women Voters. If there are any questions, call Joe Franaszek, 510-524-4659.

LWV meeting

The general membership annual luncheon of the League of Women Voters Richmond Area will be Tuesday, April 17, at noon at the Hacienda Restaurant, 12020 San Pablo Ave. at Macdonald, Richmond. Cost is \$10. Make reserva-

tions with Louise Vogelsberg, 510-233-0199. Business includes election of officers. At 1 p.m., discussion and consensus about LWV State/Local Election Systems Study.

AAUW meeting

The Richmond-El Cerrito Branch of the American Association of University Women will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at the Masonic Lodge, 6922 Stockton St., El Cerrito. Guest speaker will be Gwendolyn Whittle, a free-lance dialogue editor, who specializes in putting sound tracks in movies and TV. She works at Skywalker Ranch in Marin and has won awards for her work in such films as "Titanic" and "Saving Private Ryan."

Player meeting

School board member Patricia Player will hold a forum Saturday, March 31. The Team Player Focus Group meeting will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury,

across the street from El Cerrito High. Everyone who cares about our schools is invited to attend and discuss current issues related to the West Contra Costa Unified School District. For more information, contact Player at 524-9789.

Richard Roundtree

Richard Roundtree, star of the original "Shaft" movie and a breast cancer survivor, will be giving a talk on breast cancer on April 5 at 6 p.m. Doctors Medical Center regional cancer center, 2000 Vale Rd. in San Pablo. Details: 510-970-5021.

Toddler Time at library

The Albany Library offers a toddler time for children 16 months to 36 months on Thursday, March 29, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. This fun-filled half hour will introduce parents and their children to books, songs and games appropriate for the youngest readers. Parents must

See WORTH, Page A3

EL CERRITO CHAMBER NEWS



CHAMBER MEMBERS line up to congratulate jockey Osman Cedeno, who rode a horse named Irish Downy to victory in this year's El Cerrito Handicap at Golden Gate Fields. Pictured, from left to right, are: Past Chamber President Michael Klinger, Chamber manager Sewall Glinternick, Chamber President Marge Collings, Cedeno, Alameda County Deputy Probation Officer Lisa Lopez, Past resident Bill Kerber, and Chamber member Rich Weyeneth.

Chamber directors back El Cerrito lumber development

The El Cerrito Chamber board last week officially informed the City Council of its unanimous support for IMS Development Company's proposal to develop a 12 unit apartment and retail complex on four lots formerly occupied by the El Cerrito Mill and Lumber Company.

"The Board also voted unanimously," Chamber President Marge Collings wrote the Council, "to request, in the strongest possible terms, that the developer include additional space for commercial use — if at all possible."

The Chamber Board, at its February meeting, called on the Council to see to it that permits for this project were issued and processed "at the earliest possible date."

After reviewing current develop-

ments, the board voted unanimously this month to alter this final request to express their desire that the five members of the Council "avoid any and all delays and complete the permitting process by May, 2001."

Personal observations

Collins, in her letter to the City Council, went on to offer some personal observations in an effort to clarify the Chamber Board's position on the JMS development.

"While no formal vote has been taken by our organization on the current call for affordable housing for moderate/low/very low income seniors on the Mill and Lumber site," Collins told the Council, "I have conferred informally with most members of the Chamber Board to de-

termine their views on this issue. As far as I am able to determine, none of our directors are opposed to additional affordable housing for this city's seniors."

The directors, the Chamber president went on, seem to feel the City Council has no choice but to make JMS comply with whatever state law requires, and finds no fault with both the city's Committee On Aging and the El Cerrito Democratic Club call-

See CHAMBER, Page A3

POLICE REPORTS

One arrested in shoplifting incident

STAFF REPORT

EL CERRITO — A 44-year-old Antioch man was arrested March 16 for allegedly attempting to cash a stolen check at the Mechanics Bank on 9946 San Pablo Ave.

At 1 p.m., officers responded to a report of a suspected forgery taking place. They contacted the account holder and determined that the suspect did not have permission to possess the check and arrested the suspect shortly after.

A screwdriver-wielding shoplifter was arrested March 18 for allegedly stealing merchandise from two different Longs Drug Stores and threatening a security officer at one of them, police said.

Around 1 p.m., a Long's security officer at the Long's located at 800 Town Center in San Pablo recognized two subjects as they removed items from the shelves and left without paying for them, according to a report. They were recognized because the guard had seen them doing the same thing only the day before in El Cerrito, he told police.

He detained one suspect, a 44-year-old Richmond man, while the other got away.

On March 17, at 3 p.m., the security officer reportedly saw the same duo shoplifting from the Long's located in the 10600 block of San Pablo Avenue. "He" attempted to detain the subject and was threatened

with a screwdriver. The subjects fled the area on foot," a police statement said.

The man who was caught Sunday was arrested for strong-arm robbery and commercial burglary and was transported to the main detention facility in Martinez.

The afternoon of March 10, someone dumped a load of garbage down the side of a hill near Tapscott Avenue and Gatto Street, into Canyon Trail Park, two anonymous callers told police.

The El Cerrito Corporation Yard was notified to clean up the mess, but no suspects were found.

"Indecipherable symbols" were spray-painted on the wall of El Cerrito Honda, on 11820 San Pablo Avenue, according to a police report. Employees at the dealership did not know when the incident took place, and the clean-up cost was estimated at \$100.

Police located a Toyota van that was reportedly stolen earlier this month from the 11400 block of San Pablo Avenue and returned it to its owner.

Some \$800 in cash was allegedly stolen from a 46-year-old Berkeley woman the afternoon of March 6 when she left her purse in a shopping cart at a store on the 11400 block of San Pablo Avenue.

The victim told police she believed a woman she saw driving a U-Haul

away from the store had stolen the cash.

The evening of March 10, a 23-year-old man was taken into custody while drunk in front of the 10700 block of San Pablo Avenue.

A business owner who asked the suspect to return to the store.

Jumper cables were stolen from a Ford Aerostar van parked at 6400 block of Fairmont Avenue the night of March 8, according to a police report. The front passenger window had been smashed by means for entry.

A 23-year-old man and an old woman were both taken into custody the night of March 4 in two incidents in El Cerrito.

A car stereo was stolen from a car parked in a block of Kearney Street, between March 4 and 5.

Someone must have put a 4-inch hole in the wall of an 85-year-old woman's house in El Cerrito, police said in a report.

Repair on the house at the 1100 block of King Street was estimated at \$250. Three suspects at the time.

A 38-year-old man was arrested after being cited last week for loitering in front of a business on the 11300 block of San Pablo

Extinguishers stolen from apartment building

By K. Osborn
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the evening of March 13 a resident on the 1000 block of Kains Avenue reported that someone had tampered with his gray Toyota Camry that was parked in the garage. There were no witnesses.

On the morning of March 14 a resident at 555 Pierce St. reported that during the night thieves had stolen his black '97 Honda while it was parked in front of the complex. There were no witnesses. At about 5:30 a.m. the next morning Berkeley police located the vehicle and found that it had been stripped. They did not have anyone in custody. The vehicle was towed and the owner notified.

On the morning of March 14 Oakland police reported locating a black '92 Honda Civic that had been reported as stolen from Albany. The vehicle had been burned and both license plates were missing. The owner was notified.

On the morning of March 14 a resident on the 400 block of Stanage Avenue reported that someone had pried open her mailbox causing

damage. It was unknown if any mail was taken. There were no witnesses.

At about 1 p.m. on March 14 Albany officers contacted a non-student on the 600 block of Carmel Avenue who was hanging around Albany High School. The 18-year-old Albany man was found to be in possession of an illegal folding knife longer than two inches. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

At about 1:30 a.m. on March 16 Albany officers stopped a red '99 Volkswagen for erratic driving. The driver, a 38-year-old Berkeley woman, was found to be intoxicated. She was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear. The passenger, a 21-year-old Pacifica man, was questioned and released.

At about 10:15 p.m. on March 16 a business owner on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that

within the previous two weeks had stolen his gray '97 car that was parked in front of his business. Broken glass was found on the curb. There were no witnesses.

At about 1:30 a.m. on March 16 officers stopped a white '97 let S10 that was traveling west on the 700 block of King Street. The driver, a 20-year-old Pleasanton man, was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

At about 10 p.m. on March 16 officers contacted a man in a '99 Lexus on Buchanan Street. The driver, a 31-year-old Palo Alto man, was found with an outstanding warrant for driving with a suspended license in the amount of \$3,000.

See REPORTS, Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Little League parade set for Saturday

The annual season-opening parade down Solano Avenue for the Albany Little League takes place on Saturday at 9 a.m. There will be somewhere around 300 kids taking part, including teams from the Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League. The parade starts at Solano and Tenth Avenues and goes down to San Pablo Avenue and then to the league headquarters at Buchanan Street. Throwing out the first pitch will be Mary Nyland of Mary & Joe's Sporting Goods, a longtime supporter of the league. She will be presented with a plaque honoring her efforts.

Annual Albany Spring Fair is April 14

The Easter Bunny will be arriving at Albany Memorial Park on Saturday, April 14, for a morning of fun and games at the Albany Preschool's annual Spring Fair. The Easter Bunny will ride in on a fire truck to oversee a rollicking Easter Egg Hunt

at 10 a.m. sharp. The hunt will be divided by age levels so that all children can participate. Bring your cameras!

Games, arts and crafts, puppetry, food and music will be offered all morning. Admission to the fair and egg hunt is free and tickets for other activities will be on sale.

Albany Memorial Park is located at Portland Avenue and Romona Street. The Fair will move to the Albany Community Center if it is raining. This annual event is sponsored by the Albany Preschool in association with the City of Albany Recreation and Community Services Department, with donations from local businesses and service organizations.

Harry Potter tour seeking families for London trip

KENSINGTON — This week Kensington tour guide Angelina Sorensen kicked off her efforts to find families to go on her second annual Harry Potter trip to London.

The Kensington mother will be hitting up local schools in search of as many families as are willing to "see the land of Harry Potter," as well

as other related sites, this summer.

Last year, 25 people, including children and parents from El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley and Kensington, went to London and played together while learning about the history, art and culture of England.

This year Sorensen also plans to arrange another meeting with author J.K. Rowling, who signed the kids' "Harry Potter" books on the last trek.

The upcoming trip will take place June 25 to July 2.

"After a costume party with a 'Harry Potter' theme on June 16, we will be off to London on a Virgin Atlantic plane (they have individual seat monitors with special kid's program and Nintendo games)," she said.

"Once in England, we will tour London on a double-decker bus, tour the Tower of London and the Crown Jewels, visit London's best kids' attractions — Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, London Planetarium and the Rock Circus — go to the theater to see 'Starlight Express', and just play in Hyde Park."

She hopes the theme of the trip will inspire kids to read more, and roused their interest toward different countries and cultures.

For more information call Kensington mother Angelina Sorensen at 510-527-4250 or E-mail: sorense123@earthlink.net.

Grizzly Peak Flyfishers set open house and skills fair

Grizzly Peak Flyfishers (www.gpff.org), a nonprofit educational organization, is having an open house and Skills Fair from 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12 at the Kensington Youth Hut, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington.

Demonstrations and instructions on fly casting, fly tying, insect identification, knot tying and other skills will be featured. Free admission. Food and beverages will be available. Details: John Davis at 510-524-0428.

CHP starts car pool lane information campaign

The California Highway Patrol

says it will work with the California Department of Transportation to inform commuters about the proper usage of car pool lanes to cut down on citations.

CHP reports it will start its campaign this week using the "Changeable Message Signs" that are posted on Bay area freeways to display several messages about car pool lanes.

Motorists can expect the signs to say "Car pool enforcement in progress," "Car pool lanes for 2 or more occupants only," or "Car pool lanes for 3 or more occupants only."

The CHP says it issued more than 7,600 car pool lane citations in the Bay Area since October. Most violations claim to have been unaware of their law-breaking behavior.

El Cerrito Soroptimists announce scholarship

Soroptimist International of El Cerrito has established a scholarship

in the memory of two past presidents of the club, Mary Gianotti and Dorothy Jacobs. One of the interests of the club has been to provide opportunities for personal growth. With this desire, the annual Gianotti-Jacobs Scholarship will be awarded to assist the further education of a deserving high school graduate, who is either an El Cerrito High School senior or a resident of El Cerrito.

The scholarship for the coming year will be \$500. Applications must be received by April 15. Applications are available from El Cerrito High School or by phoning Jane Bartke, scholarship chair, at 510-235-1315.

Live at the library — free poetry events

In honor of National Library Week and National Poetry Month, the Al-

See BRIEFS, Page A8

Chamber

FROM PAGE A2

for the legally required affordable housing to be included in the project.

"We do find it strange," Collins explained, "that both of these groups are on the JMS development and are only lip service to finding a solution to the larger problem facing El Cerrito Seniors."

Making JMS meet state housing requirements will provide only a very small amount of relief for hard pressed seniors, the Chamber president contended.

ACTION URGED

The consensus among the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Collins wrote, is that the Committee on Aging and the political Democratic Club would be better advised to call on the City Council to establish a Citizens Task Force on Aging. This group — composed of individuals from the Committee on Aging, the Planning Commission, the Chamber Of Commerce, and the community at large — could find appropriate sites for additional senior housing, contact developers who specialize in construction of affordable housing and set in motion the development of those sites. (In developments since the Chamber letter went out, indications are that the Committee on Aging will add such request to its original resolution.) Collins reported Chamber leaders to the Committee on Aging's request

was well worth the council's consideration, but went on to blast the El Cerrito Democratic Club's resolution as "nothing more than a political ploy which, if acted upon, could wreck the city's newly emerging economic development program."

Proposal opposed

Drawing sharp criticism from the Chamber chief was the ECDC's call for the council to require all developers of commercial and office space in the redevelopment area to pay extra fees into a housing trust fund for the development of moderate/low/very low income housing.

"Given the fact that 20 percent of all tax increment money collected by the city's Redevelopment Agency has to be earmarked for affordable housing," Collins explained, "one has to wonder if the ECDC isn't just trying to set up a phony argument their candidates can use to discredit a City Council that's been doing remarkably good job."

Collins concluded her letter by personally urging the council to "take immediate action on the requests of the Committee on Aging and the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce" and follow up in the near future, "with the appointment of a Task Force to work toward solving the senior housing problem."

Three more firms join up

Three local businesses — Selix, Yolanda's Furniture and Wholesale Motors—are the latest firms to add their names to the El Cerrito Chamber Of Commerce's membership list.

Marva Whittington, manager of the Selix store in El Cerrito at 10321 San Pablo Ave., proudly says Selix is a great idea whose time has come.

The El Cerrito Selix store is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

New to the San Pablo Avenue business scene is Yolanda's New and Used Discount Furniture at 10285-B San Pablo Ave. Owner/operator Yolanda Contaxis Chairez reports her store offers a wide range of merchandise from antiques to quality new and used furniture for families — all at discount prices. Open daily, Yolanda's Furniture features dinette sets, living room sets, mattresses and bedroom sets as well as a selection of antiques and collectibles.

Frank Bent of Wholesale Motors has two separate used car lots on San Pablo Avenue — one at 10225 San Pablo Avenue and a recently opened lot at 10805 San Pablo Avenue. Both, he reports, are not typical used car operations. On his lots, Bent explains, high pressure selling is avoided—so that shopping for a car is a pleasant experience. Born and raised in this area, this new member keeps his overhead low so he can offer vehicles at affordable prices.

The original lot at 10225 features older cars with higher miles on them, while the new lot offers newer cars, most with low mileage, which are usually new car trade-ins rather than car auction vehicles.

Reports

FROM PAGE A2

rested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ On the morning of March 19 a resident on the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that thieves had stolen the fire extinguishers from his apartment building. There were no witnesses.

Worth

FROM PAGE A2

pre-register, and parental participation is a must. There is a limit of one child per adult, as each child needs a lap to sit on. To register, parents can call the children's desk at 510-526-3720 or visit the branch at 1247 Marin Ave..

Funding library chairs

The El Cerrito High School Library is trying to raise money to replace its broken chairs. The cost of one chair is \$125, and if an individual or family donates \$125, the chair will be named in their honor. However, any size donation is gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to El Cerrito High School Library, and sent to Mary Gray, PTSA Treasurer, 6802 Tahoe Place, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Pre School story time

Pre-school story time for ages 3 to 5 resumes at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. The story time series runs through March 21. No sign-up is necessary. For more information, call the children's

desk at the library, 526-3720.

Family Story Time

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in March, the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., hosts a free Family Story Time for all ages. Details: 510-524-3043

Yiddish storyteller

Celebrate National Women's History Month with Yiddish storyteller Jenny Markolsky for a special program at 7 p.m. on March 27 at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. The Kensington Library is located at 61 Arlington Ave. The library is open Mondays 1 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays 12 to 8 p.m., closed Wednesdays, open Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 1 to 5 p.m., and regularly closed on Sundays and holidays. The phone number is 510-524-3043.

Orchids in Paradise

Orchids in Paradise is the theme of the Golden Gate Cymbidium Society's 12th annual Orchid Show and Sale on Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and

Sunday, April 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Lakeside Garden Center (by Lake Merritt), 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. The show is the largest cymbidium orchid show in Northern California. There will be cultural information and supplies, raffles, demonstrations, and many vendors offering quality plants to suit all tastes. Admission free. Details: 510-843-6537

El Cerrito Earth Day

El Cerrito is holding its 32nd Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 28. Over 38 parks and schools grounds will be spruced up from 8:30 till noon, after which the volunteers will be given a free barbecue lunch at the El Cerrito Community Center. Special events for this year will include a Native Planting workshop and shuttles from 1 to 4 p.m. from the community center to the West County Earth Day. If you want to volunteer, please contact Janet Ableson at 510-525-7709 or earthday@ci.e-cerrito.ca.us.

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Opinion



AN UNAUTHORIZED boxing match with real gloves drew this crowd on Portland Avenue across from Albany High School. It was quickly dispersed by the School Resource Officer and school officials.

Keeping the peace at Albany High

While no news is generally bad news for the media, it is usually good news for the public, as it means nothing terrible has happened. So the fact that Albany High School hasn't been in the news after the tragedy at Santana High School and the rash of school outrages which followed suggests we are doing something right here.

I visited the AHS campus recently to find out just how much this silence tells us. The answer is a good deal. I got it from talking with the School Resource Officer, school administrators, and students. I was a full time high school teacher who also subbed in many East Bay schools. A sub who is not a quick study of schools doesn't last long.

My first talk was with Mike Ayers, veteran Albany police officer who has been the SRO this school year. The post was established only after a bruising battle pitting those who did not want an armed police officer on campus against those who felt it prudent to have one present in an age when kids were packing weapons and bombs.

Fortunately, the SRO position was established. The recent shootings at Santana High in San Diego County resulting in two deaths and 13 injuries indicate just how important it is to have an armed officer on duty. An unarmed security guard had the perpetrator cornered in the rest room, but ran and was shot several times.

But when the murdering coward who shot this defenseless man and others was confronted by officers with guns, he meekly relinquished his loaded weapon. If the security guard had been armed and properly trained, probably all but one of the shootings could have been averted.

There has been a predictable silence on this aspect of the tragedy from a media which consistently ignores or downplays stories in which guns are successfully used for protection and highlights the far less numerous ones in which they are misused.

While there is no way to provide a school with 100 percent protection, having officer Ayers on campus certainly makes Albany High a safer place. When I asked him what impact he felt his presence had made on campus, his reply was characteristically understated: "People with bad ideas have to consider me."

Some of the people whom we know to have been deterred by the SRO are the non-students who used to invade the campus regularly selling dope, trying to form gangs, bothering girls, and committing assaults. The son of a neighbor of mine was badly beaten on school grounds by several of these thugs.



DAVE GREER
Man About Town

"It was like a revolving door with outsiders at first," said Ayers, who went on duty last September. He began giving out warnings to first offenders and arresting repeaters. "This has all but put an end to non-students on campus, although we still get periodic instances," he said. "Site supervisors Josh Freeman and Joette Truitt are two more sets of eyes."

While we will never know how many people with "bad ideas" have been deterred from implementing them on campus, we do know that Ayers has been well received even by some who opposed the SRO post. "I have had good cooperation from the administration, the faculty, and the students," he said. "People come to me with many types of problems, and we have two-way communications."

Some of these communications are made anonymously, and others come directly. While I was present, a boy reported to Ayers that his CD player had been stolen when he left it unattended. Stealing seems to be the most common crime on campus. Ayers keeps a sharp eye out for signs of theft by intimidation, which, due to the victim's fear, often goes unreported.

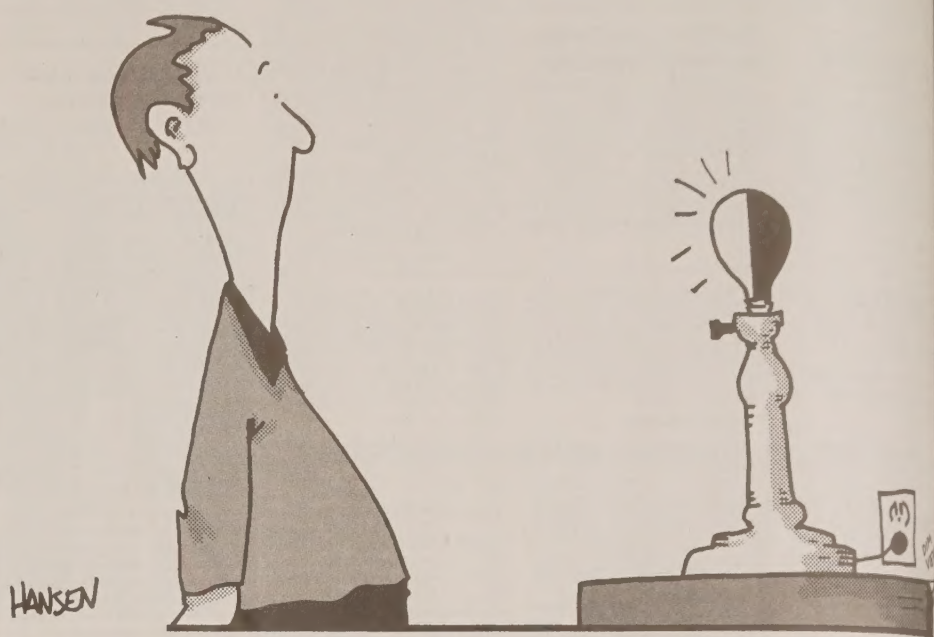
Assistant Principal Randy Booker says the SRO has "made a huge difference in our school, offering assistance in many ways." Booker himself keeps a sharp eye out for trouble. On an afternoon when Ayers was not on duty, I saw him intercept a pair of non-students. Never losing his smile, he talked these big baddies off campus and put in a call for a police car to check out the area.

The possibility of a Santana High-type tragedy occurring here is also being addressed by school officials. Principal Gloria Galindo told me she felt the most important thing to do was to "Get more of a sense of community." Toward this end, she has brought back the idea of kids having a "home room." The school's "senators" act as home-room student leaders.

Although this is only one day a week so far, she hopes it will give students a chance to build trust in the home-room teacher and so provide another person in whom they can confide. Having a home room is re-inventing the wheel — a common practice in academic circles — but old ideas often work well. I recall several home-room teachers with whom I had very good rapport. One little lady used to jerk

See GREER, Page C8

ROLLING BLACKOUTS CAN HAPPEN ANY TIME, ANY WHERE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good solutions needed

Albany is in the midst of tough times concerning its educational system. Our problems are not unique and are being replicated throughout the region.

We are being forced to choose between giving our teachers a much-needed salary increase or cutting curriculum that our children deserve and need in order to mature into educated responsible members of society.

There are no simple solutions. Both are priorities and deserve adequate funding. Two years ago, many Albany residents labored to pass a second parcel tax to supplement our district's coffers. Now we are forced to choose between salary increases and class size and programs.

A finger needs to be pointed at the obvious culprit, the infamous Proposition 13. What are we and other local school districts to do? How about the never-popular idea of a quarter- or a half-cent increase of local sales tax? Of course, this is a regressive form of funding but, other than a third parcel tax, no other viable solutions are apparent.

Are there any other constructive ideas out there to help our little town, as well as the rest of the state, raise per-student spending up to (at least) the national average?

Dr. Charlie Prins
Albany

Who do you serve?

This is a copy of a letter addressed to the Albany Board of Education:

Ever since the upper 1 percent of wealth in this country saw an educated work force

take to the streets in open defiance of a land war in Asia, people in your position have had to administer an ever dwindling percentage of the Gross National Product to keep our youth off the streets. Perhaps you have misunderstood your role.

Since my taxes pay for your lifestyle, I expect you to advocate for me and my child, and not to apologize to us for cuts in education. Teachers generate product in the information age. They should be paid accordingly. You do it with administrative skills. Teachers should not make half your salary when they do the real work of transferring information. Accountants are important, don't get me wrong; but you're the Board of Education, not the Board of Accountants.

Rather than exert pressure on those below you on the chart, you should exert pressure in the opposite direction. Rather than representing the will of those above you in that pie chart in the sky, you should be building coalitions with students, parents, and teachers, and you should be advocating for them. When you delegate representatives to state or national groups, you should be sending people who will demand funding from above you at least as aggressively as you deny funding to students, parents, and teachers below you.

If you perceive power as coming only from above, you will have missed the point.

Who do you serve?
Max Newton

Donation to help others learn value of music education

The following letter was submitted by Portola Middle School music parents, who are raising funds to buy new music chairs:

I would like to buy a music chair in remembrance of Jim Schuster, my Portola music teacher in the 1950s. He took a tremendously shy, tall, clumsy bloke and made me feel like a princess. He taught teamwork, cooperation, dependability, music and having fun.

"Shy" passed me on to an equally wonderful El Cerrito High School music teacher Marvin Nelson, who continued my princely position.

My undergraduate school choice was based on whether they would let me play in the band. As a West Contra Costa Unified School District teacher, I use what I learned in the music departments daily. When I am in best form, I use the teaching techniques of these wonderful men.

I wish I could afford to contribute more. Why doesn't the world realize the tremendous benefit that would be gained by investing in school music programs?

Thanks, too, to Mr. Y for being such a positive influence on my daughter, Krisie Beckett, during her first and last year at ECHS. We're so glad you're back and at Portola.

Community donations are invited. There are 65 chairs to be retired and a new musician's chair costs \$60. Your check may be made out to the Portola PTA Music and sent to 638 Clayton St., El Cerrito 94530. Questions or comments should be directed to Ellen, 510-234-0400, or Joann, 510-524-9464. All donations are tax-deductible, and checks of any amount will be gratefully accepted.

See LETTERS, Page C8

VIEWPOINT

City committed to a Swim Center project to be proud of

By Larry Damon
MAYOR, CITY OF EL CERRITO

I must take issue with the Journal's March 9 article on the "beleaguered" El Cerrito Swim Center. The article quotes our now departed architect Ellerbe-Becket as saying that, if the city restricts itself to original Measure A funding of \$4.9 million, then the project may "be cut to a level that the citizens of El Cerrito and Ellerbe-Becket cannot take pride in." Did I miss something? When was Ellerbe-Becket elected, designated or otherwise selected to speak for the citizens of El Cerrito? And, since when does Ellerbe-Becket

presume to become the arbiter of what the citizens of El Cerrito can take pride in? Our citizens didn't come up with \$4.9 million so a contractor could meet its private corporate standards of "pride" irrespective of costs.

Statements like those quoted in the Journal article, as well as several made during the proceedings of the Swim Center Committee assessing the budget overrun problem, expose an agenda (along with an ample helping of gall) that leads me to conclude we are blessed with Ellerbe-Becket's departure. Of course, the Journal could have put all this in proper

context IF it cared to mention that Ellerbe-Becket also wanted a fee increase in excess of \$500,000 as part of its expanded program! Indeed, "soft costs" (architectural design, program management, certifications, etc.) are a big part of the budget problem! These costs are consuming almost 20 percent of the budget when more complex projects usually run in the range of 8 percent to 10 percent. It would seem, therefore, that Ellerbe-Becket's "pride" is closely related to their bottom-line fee.

Now, it is true that the original design team of RJM & Aquatic Design missed several cost items and

under-estimated several others. It is also true that costly items on an emergency diesel generator were added. Some of the additions were at the suggestion of the Ellerbe-Becket and Aquatic Design (which is still on the contract) others at the suggestion of parents in the Oct. 30 schematic design review presentation. At this point, the project was proceeding well and according to schedule.

The show stopper came a few months later when Ellerbe-Becket exposed the deficiencies in the original \$4.9 million cost estimate.

See DAMON, Page C8

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Good grief, Jerry Brown, you haven't done much for Oakland town

Jerry Brown threw his love into the ring last week, and the conventional wisdom says he's a shoe-in for re-election. Why? What has this guy actually accomplished?

I understood his popularity when he ran the first time: He was a blank slate every-where. He could write their fondest hopes and dreams on. After years of stage-manipulated leadership under mayors who only seemed interested in putting their names on public buildings, he offered hope that something could actually get done. And let's face it: It felt good to have someone famous as mayor.

But now he's had three years, and it's time to judge him on his record. And that record is pretty good.

When he took over, he said he had four goals: 1. Improve the schools. 2. Reduce crime. 3. Revitalize downtown. 4. Encourage the arts.

Let's take them one by one. Education. Yes, the Oakland schools are better than they were three years ago. Principals have been replaced, teachers have been given raises (it's happened ever), and morale is up throughout the district.

But none of that was Jerry's doing. It was done by the guy Jerry didn't want to hire: Dennis Chas-



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

conas, the dynamic superintendent whom the school board hired over Jerry's objections.

In fact, Jerry's main contribution on the education front seems to be his military charter school proposal, which — assuming it ever happens — will serve a handful of students at best, without addressing the needs of the vast majority.

2. Crime. Yes, it's down in Oakland. It's also down in Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, and every other city in the East Bay. It has to do with the state of the economy; crime rates always fall in good times.

And on the debit side, Oakland's murder rate is actually rising, unlike her sister cities. And last year's police brutality scandal and the friendly-fire shooting of an undercover cop in January raise troubling questions about the state of the OPD on Jerry's watch.

3. Revitalizing downtown. So where are those 10,000 downtown residential housing units he promised? And now that the economy is starting to go south, how likely are they to ever become a reality?

4. Encouraging the arts. How

encouraged can artists be when the gentrified development that Jerry is encouraging threatens to drive them out of their lofts, just as it did during the last five years in San Francisco? And how seriously do they think he takes them when he appoints a tattoo artist to the city's Arts Commission?

And then there's *l'affaire Barzaghi*. It's all too painful, so let me recapitulate as briefly as possible: Jacques Barzaghi is Jerry's long-time bodyguard/feng shui expert/housemate/alter ego who has been at Mayor Moonbeam's side through all his many incarnations.

Currently, Barzaghi is serving as the co-director of the city's Arts Commission (appointed by Brown, of course, at a tidy salary of \$118,000 per year), where his service seems to consist of putting the moves on female staffers and asking them if they're wearing any underwear. These actions resulted in his suspension for three weeks by City Manager Robert Bobb.

But not a peep from Jerry. He completely sidestepped the whole scandal, saying it was strictly a personnel matter. This is a leader?

City Hall insiders say the 2002 mayor's race is just a stepping stone to bigger things — like Barbara Boxer's senate seat or even the presidency itself — two years later. If he does make a run for wider office in 2004, he's sure got my vote.

Anything to get him out of town.

Speaking of getting out of town, the Oakland Youth Orchestra is going to Italy this summer, where they'll give concerts in five different cities: Montepulciano, Pistoia, Crema, Carpi and Montecatini.

You can get a preview this Sunday afternoon at the Calvin Simmons Theater, where they'll be joined by the 100-plus-member Oakland Symphony Chorus on Bach's glorious Cantata #4. They'll also play Prokofiev's 7th Symphony and Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras #1.

I never cease to be astounded by just how good these young musicians are. For instance, 11 members of the Oakland Symphony are Oakland Youth Orchestra alumni. So is Elizabeth Morgan, the guest soloist who performed the Ravel Piano Concerto in G Major at last week's Oakland Symphony concert. She won the OYO's concerto competition in 1997.

And last year's OYO concerto competition winner, 16-year-old Adrian Tam, played the incidental music before the recent Oakland Symphony concert.

Incidentally, he played piano — not, as the written program had it, the violin. "Oh well," says Adrian philosophically. "It could have been worse. At least they didn't list me as a violinist!"

(If you're not into musical jokes, let me explain: Musicians love to tell viola jokes. You can even find a link to viola jokes on the Oakland Youth Orchestra's web site: www.oyo.org. The second most popular jokes are soprano jokes. For instance: How many sopranos does it take to change a light bulb? A: Only one. She holds the bulb, and the world revolves around her.)

By the way, the winner of this year's OYO concerto competition hasn't been officially announced yet, but my sources tell me it's 18-year old Kenny Pexton, who plays clarinet. He'll be officially announced at this Sunday's concert.

Remember my column about Otis Darden, the young man from Berkeley who was killed in Vietnam on his 21st birthday and whose name appears prominently on the new Vietnam Wall commemorative postage stamp?

Many people have asked how they can get hold of a sheet of these stamps; and thanks to a helpful reader named Doris Nasir, I can tell you how.

"Just call 1-800-STAMP24," she says. "That's the U.S. Postal Service's toll-free order number. They'll charge you a flat fee of \$1 for shipping and handling, whether you buy a dollar's worth or a hundred dollars' worth, so it's a good deal, especially if you plan to buy

in bulk."

Finally, it's Oscar time again. Who will win? Who will lose? Who cares?

Certainly not me. I haven't seen any of the nominated movies; and neither, probably, have you. (Why should we, when they're all made for 14-year-old boys anyway?)

Which makes me the perfect guy to hand out the annual Sally awards, named after Sally "You like me! You really like me!" Field for egregious excess at the Academy Awards.

Yes, for the 15th straight year next week we'll hand out our traditional awards for Worst Hairdo, Ugliest Dress, Most Pretentious Acceptance Speech, etc. This has become a fan favorite over the years, and lots of you have weighed in with nominations of your own.

So watch carefully Sunday night. Take lots of notes. If you spot someone you think is particularly worthy of a Sally, call me at the phone number on the bottom of this column. Then we'll all compare notes next Friday, OK?

Until then, th-th-th-thats all, folks!

Phone Martin Snapp at (510) 273-9039, email him at catman@california.com, or write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611.

OBITUARY

Susan Fruge, 74

Susan Fruge, a founding member of the California Native Plant Society, died Feb. 18. She was 74 and had four children from a stroke. A California native herself, she spent her early childhood in Iowa, returning to California to complete high school and attend UCLA. She graduated with an editor at the UCLA office of the University of California Press. In 1969 she married August Fruge, director of the UC Press, Berkeley. For many years they lived near the UC Berkeley campus, where Fruge grew many native plants in her garden and served as chapter president of the Herb Society of America.

Her passion for horticulture, natural history and native plants was shared by her association with the UC Press, where she was involved in the editing and production of such monumental works as "A California Flora" by Philip A. Munz. Through the press and the Sierra Club, Fruge mingled professionally and socially with leading environmentalists of the day, including Wallace Stegner, Kay Rorer, Sylvia McLaughlin, David Brower, Ansel Adams, Ledyard Stebbins and others. In 1965, when the East Bay Regional Park District, headquartered in Oakland, threatened to dismantle the arboretum of

native plants in Berkeley's Tilden Park, Fruge was part of a small but spirited group of plant lovers and environmentalists who came together in a successful effort to halt the plan. From this fledgling group of native plant enthusiasts the California Native Plant Society was born. The plant sales organized by Fruge and Berkeley botanist Jenny Fleming were key to the financial survival of CNPS in its early years and to the society's transformation into the 32-chapter organization, with thousands of members, that it is today.

In 1981, the Fruges moved to Twenty-Nine Palms, where Fruge created a showplace garden of desert plants, painted and produced illustrations for a number of books. She served as president of the local Art Guild, helped found the Twenty-Nine Palms Historical Society, served on the board of the Joshua Tree National Park Association, organized the annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival and laid the groundwork for a number of highly successful educational and interpretive programs at the park. She is remembered as a gifted artist and mentor to many. She was also a savvy businesswoman with exceptional organizational skills who could, and did, take well-intentioned organizations from small-town obscurity to political, social and financial power. In 1983 she was honored by CNPS as a Lifetime Fellow.

Norman La Force speaks on East Bay parks

The West Contra Costa County Sierra Club will hear Norman La Force speaking about East Bay parks on Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church Makamie Hall 545 Ashbury St., El Cerrito.

La Force will discuss the Eastshore State Park and land acquisition by the East Bay Regional Park District. As a founder of Citizens for the Eastshore State Park and as chair of the chapter's East Bay Shoreline Park Task Force and East Bay Public Lands Committee, he has worked since 1983 to create this park. La Force is a past mayor and member of the El Cerrito City Council.

Girls softball league golf scramble fundraiser

The Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League (ABGSL) will host its first Annual Softball Scramble Golf Tournament on Friday, May 11 at Tilden Park Golf Course to raise funds to develop a softball field at

Longfellow School in Berkeley.

Serving over 200 girls each season for 19 years, ABGSL is an all-volunteer league that organizes softball teams open to all girls in 1st through 9th grade. The League emphasizes sound skill development, fun, and participation for every player, regardless of skill or previous experience.

Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League is requesting \$100 for a hole sponsorship. Smaller cash donations, which can be designated to purchase items for the raffle, are also welcome. In consideration of your generosity as a sponsor, you will receive recognition in the Golf Tournament brochure and press release for the event, and your name or company's name on a poster will be displayed

at the golf hole. Participation in the Golf Tournament costs \$125 per person and includes green fees, cart, box lunch, barbecue dinner, and raffle prizes.

If you would like to join us for an afternoon of fun, friendly golf, or if you would like to sponsor a hole, call Mike Birnbach at 510-525-0199 by April 20.

UC Berkeley celebrates 133 years at Charter Day

The University of California at Berkeley is turning 133 years old today, and the campus is taking the occasion to celebrate its history, particularly its "Nobel" past.

The Charter Day festivities will include a keynote address by Nobel

Laureate Daniel McFadden, UC Berkeley economics professor and recipient of the Nobel Prize in economics in 2000.

McFadden is the 17th member of the university's faculty to garner that distinction. That legacy will be honored when the university presents a slide show honoring it's Nobel Prize history.

The events begin at 10 a.m., when the school's chancellor, Robert M. Berdahl, will give a welcome speech at Zellerbach Hall. The celebratory events will also include the presentation of two awards, the Elise and Walter Haas International Award, and the Peter E. Haas Public Service award. A birthday party celebration is scheduled to take place in Dwinelle Plaza beginning at noon.

NEWSLINE

In honor of advancements in the treatment of cancer and the courage of cancer survivors...



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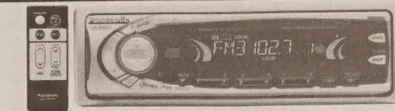


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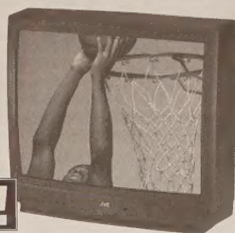
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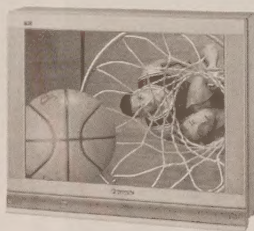
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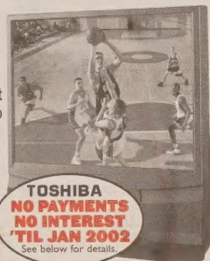
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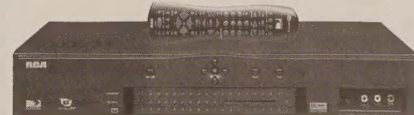
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4th-graders in service learning projects

Fourth grade students at Prospect Sierra School in El Cerrito find many opportunities for service learning. Above David, Andrew and Jack in Bob Houghteling's class spend time with a reading buddy, Aaron, in kindergarten at Castro School. Lucia Blakeslee-Hecht's class recently held a book sale to raise money for El Salvadoran earthquake relief. Third-graders Keilani and Serena happily examine their new purchases with Ms. Blakeslee-Hecht. Martha Salzman's class is working with Brushstrokes to paint tiles for bench installations at Herrick Hospital. Lauren puts the finishing touches on her composition. About 40 percent of the school's enrollment is from Berkeley.



Greer

FROM PAGE A4

my necktie up every morning saying, "Greer! Button your neck!"

The difference between "snitching" and informing authorities of threats of mass violence was discussed in home rooms recently. A "dialogue" on the subject was also held in the Little Theater. Galindo believes this is an understanding — obvious to adults but less so to kids — that is vital to school safety.

What seems more obvious to kids than to adults is the bullying which has been pretty much accepted in most schools. Every one of the perpetrators of high school shooting sprees had been bullied

and humiliated. Experts believe that the bullied youths found a way to turn the tables on their tormentors and the community which tolerated them. Ironically, the victims became the ultimate bullies.

If anything good can be said to come of these tragedies, it is that for the first time attention is being focused on the bullying that has scarred the psyches of so many. In a recent letter to the editor, a man wrote, "I was assaulted, battered, robbed and tormented by my (alleged) peers every single day in public schools ... Consequently I grew up warped."

This man also says that "The authorities didn't care enough to do anything about it." I believe him, as I have seen teachers walk right by a fight. This was under an

administration so bad that when I reported a boy who threatened me, I was put on trial! If administrators fail to back teachers, order breaks down and the school becomes a jungle in which only the strong walk without fear.

Galindo says she, too, was unsupported by administrators when she was a teacher. So she fully understands that unless those in charge back their teachers, most will give up trying to create a safe environment for students. "We stand behind our teachers," she said. "I am here to support them."

Officer Ayers says there is "zero tolerance" for bullying on campus. He tells me that bullies today are usually more interested in extorting their victims than knocking them around for the fun of it. Whatever the motivation, the results can be disastrous, as we have seen in recent times.

The school's three counselors also keep an ear to the ground for

plowicz.

■ Tuesday, April 10, 7 to 8 p.m.: Poetry readings and discussions with Joyce Jenkins, Russell Gonzaga and Richard Silberg.

■ Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. to noon: Poetry writing workshop, led by Alison Seevak

■ Sunday, April 29, 1 to 3 p.m. Public readings of poems written by workshop participants, students and community members.

Refreshments will be served. All events take place in the Edith Stone Room at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. Questions: Call Julie Winkelstein at 526-3720 ext 19

Briefs

FROM PAGE A3

and National Poetry Month, the Albany Library is sponsoring a series of four poetry events. These events are free, open to the public and funded by ALA and Friends of the Albany Library. All four are centered on the theme of "Home."

The event schedule:

■ Tuesday, April 3, 7 to 8 p.m.: Poetry readings and discussions with Alison Seevak, Victor Jimenez, Annamaria Torpey and Amy Isaacs-Ko-

Farallon Recorder Quartet performing March 25-26

On Sunday March 25, and Monday March 26, the Farallon Recorder Quartet (formerly the Sirena Recorder Quartet) will present a program of music by Ludwig Senfl, Johann Sebastian Bach, and others. Both concerts are wheelchair accessible.

Sunday March 25 at 7:30 p.m. the Farallon Recorder Quartet (formerly the Sirena Recorder Quartet) performs at St. Alban's Episcopal Church at 1501 Washington Ave., Albany. Parking is on the street. Bus lines 72 and 73 stop at San Pablo

Ave., several blocks west of the church. Tickets are \$15 general admission, and \$10 for students, senior citizens and members of SFEMS. Students under 18 are admitted free with a paying adult.

The concert will be repeated on Monday March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church at 25 Lake St. (at Arguello) in Inner Richmond, San Francisco, across from Temple Emmanuel, in the sanctuary. Bus line 1 California stops a block away. Admission is \$10 and free for children 18 and under.

Letitia Berlin, Frances Louise Carlisle and Hana Prosdy will be performing under the name of the Farallon Recorder Quartet.

Rhe quartet has worked since 1996 and is preparing for their first recording in the fall. Farallon Recorder Quartet is a affiliate of the San Francisco Music Society, a non-profit organization. For more information call 510-4670 or email fish-deb@spring.com

Damon

FROM PAGE C3

and, with the Oct. 30 additions factored in, came forward with a revised estimate of more than \$8 million! Do we want an \$8 million Swim Center? You bet we do. But where do we get the additional \$3 million? How do we explain to the citizens who barely passed Measure A's original \$4.9 million budget that we are now taking additional money from other sources which they thought had already been funded? What part of day care do we eliminate? What element of our seniors programs do we cut? Which streets do we let deteriorate even further so Ellerbe-Becket can have a project that they "take pride in"?

The Swim Center Project is in budget trouble primarily because the original cost estimate was too low. Realizing a commitment to the citizens who passed Measure A as well as those who opposed it, the Swim Center Committee has worked very hard to bring the project back to the original \$4.9 million estimate. This cost-cutting means that several desirable items have had to be deleted and/or deferred. To minimize this, sources of additional funds (grants, fund raisers, etc.) are being explored. Even with these efforts, however, it presently appears that a scaled back project will be necessary, at least in the short term. The level of scale back will depend on how much value we can extract from

the \$4.9 million. This is where the modern technical management methods like value engineering come into play.

Value engineering is different than cost cutting. Cost cutting just eliminates elements from the project. Value engineering, on the other hand, means that we spend our money on things which deliver real value to the project's bottom-line purpose. For example, one cost item is dismantling and extracting the old equipment from the below-grade pump room and filling the void with earth and concrete. Even if a new grade-level equipment shed has to be built (which is not at all a certainty), why deplete precious budget getting rid of something that could just as easily be abandoned in place? Where is the value in this? Wouldn't it be better to use those funds to build a better locker room, especially when the abandoned equipment can be extracted later, possibly at a break-even cost

for salvage value? Following that example, we must now assess the real intrinsic value offered by many other "prideful" elements of Ellerbe-Becket's \$8.1 million schematic design.

Finally, the Journal quotes Ellerbe-Becket as saying that it does not have "a clear understanding that the City Council is committed to providing a complete project". I cannot address Ellerbe-Becket's level of comprehension but let me say this. We do have a challenge in front of us. But with the departure of the great Ellerbe-Becket, we STILL have talent to meet that challenge. Pulling together, El Cerrito will have a Swim Center, we WILL meet our \$4.9 million budget, and we WILL have something we can take pride in. How's that for a clear understanding of commitment to providing a completed project!

Letters

FROM PAGE A4

Urban casinos a bad idea

In previous statements regarding Indian gaming, Gov. Davis promised he wouldn't approve urban tribal casinos. There is growing general objection to card room and casino gambling in the San Francisco Bay region.

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown's proposal for a casino on Treasure Island was roundly defeated. Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown's idea for tribal gaming at the former Oakland Army Base has received widespread criticism.

San Jose has taken action to diminish card rooms in their city. Albany has finally recovered from long and divisive battle over proposed card room at Golden Gate Fields.

Raising the age limit to 21 not begin to address the many negative impacts this project will have. Allowing it will open the door to other card rooms and casinos seeking the same expanded gambling capability "to remain competitive."

Governor Davis should take the compact authorizing the Band of the Pomo Indians to operate a Nevada-style casino in the Bay community. There is no gain to be gained in it.

David Lee

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Youth violence prevention forum planned

A dialogue between youth and community leaders on creating a youth violence prevention forum is planned for Wednesday, March 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Richmond Auditorium, 2553 Nevin St. in Richmond.

Dr. James M. Jones will be provided from 5:30 to 6:15 followed by a panel discussion, open mike, and closing remarks ceremony.

The event is spearheaded by the Youth Together Project, a multi-

racial violence prevention and social justice program in Richmond, Oakland, and Berkeley High Schools.

The need for the forum was sparked in response to recent violent deaths of youth in the Richmond/San Pablo community, according to Alexis Pusina, Youth Together program coordinator.

For further information, contact Pusina at 510-834-9455 ext. 229 or at: apusina@arcassociates.org

Glen Price is a member of the WC-

West County School Watch

By Glen Price

CUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted.

Raffle, casino event will benefit El Cerrito High School projects

EL CERRITO — If you ever thought it would be nice to "Rocket into the Future" with some extra cash in your pocket, the El Cerrito High School grad night raffle people have a deal for you. You have the chance to win \$1,000, \$500, \$250 or even more on sale now. We're the raffle people that still does this, "parent" raffle that does about grad night. We have donations and parent fund doing that does it. Adams added.

Grad night is an all night "safe" party for graduating seniors. Adams said the money raised from the raffle is used to pay for the cost of the decorating, entertainment and food at grad night. Raffle tickets are \$10 each. The drawing will be held at Casino Night, Friday, April 6, at the El Cerrito Community Center. You don't have to be present

to win. First prize is \$1000 cash, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. There are also smaller prizes as well.

"It's a very elaborate affair," Adams said of the grad night theme decorations. "They're going to convert the gymnasium into a space-age thing. It's going to be a big production." Adams said about 250 celebrants are expected to attend the event. "They had more kids than they expected last year," she said. To buy tickets for the grad night raffle call Lucy Adams at 510- 987-9932 or Naomi McPherson at 510-987-9951.

Casino Night at Community Center

"Gambling" at blackjack, craps and roulette will be the main feature of the eighth annual Casino Night fund-raiser to be presented by the Friends of El Cerrito High School from 7 to 11 pm on Friday April 6 at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, El Cerrito. Members of the community are encour-

aged to show their support by attending this fun-filled evening. Tickets (\$25 each and \$40 for two) include hors d'oeuvres, desserts and script for use at the tables. Throughout the evening additional script will be sold, prizes will be awarded, a DJ will provide music, and a no-host beer and wine bar will be open. The tables are run by professionals and instruction is provided for non-gamblers, so everyone is welcome.

Needed are community sponsors, businesses and individuals to underwrite the cost of equipment rental, and prizes such as gift certificates and merchandise. Gaming table sponsorships are \$200 each. To sponsor a table, purchase tickets, or donate prizes, call chairperson, Janet McKnight at 510-525-3272. Advance ticket reservations are advised for Casino Night, ECHS's only all-school fundraiser. Proceed will go towards an electronic message board in front of the school and scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

Jazz drummer great performing at Portola

Mark your calendars for a "jazz" event at Portola Middle School on Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m. for Duke Ellington drummer Dave Black. He will be guest star in a performance with the Portola jazz bands. Admission will be \$5 at the door. Free goods will be available.

Black, 72, auditioned for Duke Ellington and wound up taking over the drum chair.

He continued the tradition that predecessor Louie Bellson started, using two bass drums in his set-up. His stint with Ellington lasted just under two years, from 1953-55.

Polio forced him from the road, but not before he had the opportunity to work with the stellar jazz stars that made up Ellington's band, including Clark Terry (trumpet) and his two section mates, bassists Oscar Pettiford and Charles Mingus.

EL CERRITO PTA NEWS

By Linda Takimoto
CORRESPONDENT

Bayside Council of PTAs

■ April 2, Council meeting, 7 p.m. in the faculty room at Pinole Middle School, 1575 Mann St., Pinole. Agenda will include election of officers for next year and guest, Supervisor John Gioia.

■ April 6, EdSource Forum, Tests and More Tests: The Road Ahead for Student Assessment - 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the PG&E Learning Center in San Ramon. \$70 - call edsource to register, 650 857-9604.

Adams Middle School

■ Join Adams PTA - Membership is only \$6. Checks are payable to "Adams PTA". Our next PTA project is to help sponsor a student run store open on Wednesday mornings. Please mail all checks to Adams PTA, 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805.

■ The PTA has a tentative date of May 19 for the school wide flea market in May. All proceeds will go to either the PTA, a school club or group, Academy, or 6th, 7th, & 8th grade class. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to cchan2429@aol.com

■ The Adams library is collecting empty computer ink jet cartridges (the small ink jet cartridges - black and/or color, no laser cartridges or copier toner cartridges). All proceeds are used to purchase computer-related materials for the library computers. There is a collection bucket in the library on the third floor.

■ We have Albertson Community Partner cards. Anyone who shops at Albertsons can help us by using the Albertson Community Partner card. There is no cost to the member. If you are interested in receiving a card, please send a note to the Adams PTA at 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805 and a card will be sent to you. We are also participating in the Target Guest Card and eScrip program. If you are interested in helping, please call the PTA voice message line or send an email message to cchan2429@aol.com.

■ PTA Voice Message Line is 510-464-1360, ext 70 - Call this number to hear about upcoming events, Academy updates, minimum day schedules and special dates.

■ PTA eMail - Weekly PTA bulletins are being sent. Any community members interested in subscribing should send their email address to Connie Chan Kucera at cchan2429@aol.com

■ Read about Adams on the In-

ternet: Access the PTA newsletter at <http://www.elcerritopta.org> and type "Adams Middle School" in the search box. Access the student newspaper, the Falcon Flyer at: <http://www.highwired.net/Paper/PaperOne/0,1859,964,00.html>

Castro Elementary

Fundraisers: Castro is enrolled in eScrip (ID#137627554), Albertson's, Target, and SchoolPop fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 510-236-0761 to find out how you can benefit Castro when you shop.

El Cerrito High

■ March 29, Spring Concert I - Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band perform at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Admission at the door.

■ NEW SCRIP SALES: El Cerrito High School PTSA is enrolled in the eScrip program. Our group ID is 5221087. Individual members pay an annual fee of \$10 to register their Safeway loyalty or other credit cards with eScrip. A percentage of the supporters' purchases is contributed by the merchant partner to ECHS PTSA on a monthly basis. Participating merchants are: Safeway, Andronico's, Cody's Books, Chevron, Old Navy, Eddie Bauer, and Payless Shoes. You may register online at www.escrip-inc.com or look for registration forms at various school events. Any questions, call Cheryl Black 510-527-7070 (days) or 510-237-1696 (evening).

■ Want to be kept informed of all events, activities, tests date, college info, etc.? Join the ECHS email forum. All school notices will be emailed to you. To sign up, please email Joann Steck-Bayat at jsbayat@home.com. Be sure to specify that you would like to be added to the ECHS email forum.

Harding Elementary

■ Scrip purchases - contact Holly Winter at 510-525-0273.

■ After School Classes include tennis, dance and drama. Call the school at 525-0273 or the El Cerrito Community Center for more details.

Portola Middle School

■ March 27, Music Committee and PTA meetings - 6:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. in the library. Agenda items include election of officers for next year.

■ March 28, Jazz Band Concert with guest Dave Black - 7 p.m. in the Little Theater. Mr. Black has performed with a number of jazz greats including Duke Ellington. Tickets are \$5 at the door; the drama commit-

tee will host a bake sale.

■ April 2, Healthy Start Parents Meeting - 6:30 p.m. in the Healthy Start room just to the right of the front entrance. All are welcome. Meetings are held every other Monday evening.

■ SPONSOR A MUSICAL CHAIR. Portola music families know the importance of providing a good foundation of love and support for our children. We also know the value of providing our children with a solid foundation in the arts. There are some practical, yet essential foundations that are in severe disrepair in our Music Room...the chairs. Due to constant use, hour after hour and year after year, the chairs in the music room are unbalanced and worn with age. They need to be put into retirement. We challenge our greater Portola community to help raise money for new music room chairs. A new musician's chair from Wenger Corporation costs \$60.00. There are 65 chairs to be retired. Your check may be made out to the Portola PTA Music and sent to 638 Clayton St., El Cerrito 94530. Questions or comments should be directed to Ellie 234-0400 or Joann 524-9464. All donations are tax-deductible and checks of any amount will be gratefully accepted.

■ Fundraisers: Portola is enrolled in eScrip and Albertson's fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 236-0761 to find out how you can benefit Portola while you shop.

■ Teen Center - Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. Fee - \$6 drop in or \$50 monthly. Great activities, trips and special events. Call 215-4370 for more information.

■ email forum - school information and meeting notices direct to your email box. Send your email address and request to be on the mail list to Joann Steck-Bayat at jsbayat@home.com.

WCCUSD Calendar

April 16-20, Spring Break - no school for all students.

WCCUSD Board

■ March 31, Team Player Focus Group - 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Northminster Pres. Board member Patricia Player will discuss school district issues of concern and interest.

■ April 4, Meeting - 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Kennedy High School.

Items? Call Linda Takimoto at 510-237-6183 or email: ltakimoto@yahoo.com

ALBANY PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NEWS

By Kay Weinstein
CORRESPONDENT

Albany PTA Council

■ March 29, Author Alfie Kohn talks on The Deadly Effects of Higher Standards, 7 p.m., Oakland School Auditorium, suggested donation \$10

Albany High School

■ Interested parents may receive daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Ruth Gjerde at ruthgeecs@berkeley.net

■ March 24, Spring Dance, 7-11

■ April 2, Band Boosters Meet-

■ April 2, AHS Band Room

■ April 2, PTA Meeting, 7 PM, Library

■ April 5, IIC Meeting, 7 PM, Room 33

■ SCRIP Orders: If you shop at Safeway, sign up for eScrip by calling 1-800-400-7878 or register online at www.escrip.com. Old Navy is now available from eScrip. Register online for Andronico's at schoolpop.com or call 1-800-456-1032. We can provide Albertson's Community Partners cards. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail Linda at alanhome@lmi.net

■ REMINDER: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Cornell Elementary

■ SCRIP sales: Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip (1-800-400-7878 or escrip.com). Register online for Andronico's at schoolpop.com or call 1-800-456-1032. Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl paper SCRIP also for sale in the office.

Marin Elementary

■ Berkeley Bowl, Ranch 99 Mar-

ket and Natural Grocery paper SCRIP for sale Monday and Friday mornings from 8:30 to 9 and 9:30 to 10 a.m.. Orders can be placed in office at any time. Albertson's Community Partners Cards available at these times. Safeway and Whole Foods electronic scrip must be purchased from eScrip (800-400-7878 or www.escrip.com). Marin School account number is 136951780. Register online for Andronico's at schoolpop.com or call 800-456-1032.

■ REMINDER: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Ocean View Elementary

■ March 29, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library

■ SCRIP for sale in the office. Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip (800-400-7878 or escrip.com). Register online for Andronico's at schoolpop.com or call 1-800-456-1032. RECYCLE used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library soon.

■ AUSD Board of Education

March 27, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Ocean View Multi-Purpose Room

Attention shoppers

■ Support Albany schools by going to www.schoolpop.com to access 125 merchants including Andronico's, Webvan, Amazon.com, drug-

store.com and Land's End. Up to 20 percent of every purchase goes back to your school.

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• Why hospitals ask about a Health Directive at the time of admission.
• What are the patient's rights regarding Health Directives?
• Why it is important to complete the form before becoming hospitalized or ill.
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Dr. Beatty will discuss the purpose and importance of Healthcare Directives to individuals and their families. He will show how this form is a tool to communicate with healthcare providers and your loved ones. An overview of how to complete the form will be included. Each participant will receive a form at the seminar.
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Artistic duo invite the adventurous on a memorable week in a French village

You are in the French countryside, surrounded by lime green and golden fields washed in lemon light. Around you are fields of sunflowers, clear lakes and bubbling streams, and the rich rural farming valleys of southwestern France. You find the perfect spot, and settle down with your paints and brushes at the ready. You know what you are going to do, because you learned it in your class that morning.

You are one of a few very special people who are spending a week in the historic, post card village of Soreze, "a small, medieval village of 300 friendly neighbors," just one hour from Toulouse airport, nestled at the base of the Montagne Noir (dark mountain), and close to other ancient and beautiful villages of the area. Your leaders are two gifted and well known East Bay artists, Carole Fitzgerald and Melinda Carville Mollin.

The event is the first of what they plan to be ongoing painting explorations of this beautiful coun-

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

tryside. From July 29 to Aug. 5, you will be a guest in a home with "rooms that look like Matisse or Bonnard painted them". You will enjoy elegant candle lit meals by the house chef and open air picnics. You will create French desserts, painting and watercolor sessions, history walks, tours and outings. And you will paint and explore this lovely medieval region.

But this is not an advertisement for them, it is meant to tell you about them. (I just enjoy talking about that magical part of France). And there is a lot to tell.

I have written about Carole Fitzgerald before, mostly about her activities to save the Albany Hill. She is co-founder and leader of Friends of Albany Hill, and most of her work for many years were scenes from that beautiful spot. In fact, if you visit the Albany Library,

as you enter, and raise your eyes across the room, you are greeted by two of her marvelous paintings of scenes of the hill. One features the monarch butterflies that abound on the hill.

Of late, Fitzgerald says, she has changed her focus, away from the hill and to other types of scenery. Carole teaches art at City College of San Francisco and at Creativity Explored, the San Francisco counterpart of our own NIAD (both were started by the same dedicated couple). She is excited about expanding into a summer program of such beauty and change. Loving to teach and to paint, this includes the best of both worlds.

Partner Melinda Mollin, a resident of Montclair in Oakland, is also a painter, and showed me some of her lovely scenes, many of them painted in San Miguel, Mexico during the several years when that was her home. Of course, that is only one of the places where she has lived and worked. Her world wide travels and experiences prac-

ticing her art should make interesting stories and information for the attendees at the French experience. In addition to her painting, Mollin does a great deal of drawing, and her very precise and clear drawings are a delight.

Currently, Melinda is practicing another of her passions. Faux art. In Tiburon she is transforming a very attractive house on the Bay, into a medieval villa. I walked through, gazing at the "ancient" beams, the 100-year-old doors, two of them found by the owner in Europe, the rest copied by Melinda and you decide which is which. The entire home is going from modern to medieval, under her magic hands. And you can tell how much the owner is enjoying it, as she browses through Europe and here at home to find just the small touches that will help make that change. A glowing Melinda admits that this is a dream job for her.

Melinda and her two sons are settled in Montclair, but her entire life has been a journey in art. She

grew up in Tulsa, Okla. Her artist father lost his fortune in the depression and worked in the oil fields, doing drawings of the fields and the workers. Her mother's family retained their fortune, and both families were in "high society".

Melinda has studied Chinese brush painting in Singapore and Java. She moved to Los Angeles and married. She did display work in New Mexico and Beverly Hills. They moved up to the Bay Area, and had two sons. She continued her work in display and sets for plays. She became interested in "faux art" while in Mexico, working under two talented teachers. A woman making a movie there asked for her help, and while she was working on the sets the woman said "You really should go into the business." So she did. More moving and more visits to San Miguel, until she finally settled here.

The two artists filled me — and

my notes — with their passion for art in its many forms, and also very excited about the French venture, and what they had in mind. They talked of the beautiful villa that will be their headquarters, the wonderful chef, the beautiful surroundings, the hiking trails, lake for swimming, the cornucopia are a must see, until I was told to sign up on the spot.

I can't. But you can. Call Carole at 528-3236, or Melinda at 424-6888 or her at cfitz68@Hotmail.com

I have known Carole for many years, working with her in the French village of Albany Hill. It was a great experience and chat with Melinda, and her work, paintings, drawings, and more. I invite you to join her work, your input, interesting events, organizations, etc. Please write to me at 555 Plaza St., or call 525-4585. My email is crgenser@aol.com.

Report

FROM PAGE A1

planned hotels, is saturated and that the retail market in the city will be saturated after the reconstructed Plaza is up and running.

He said an increase in population would increase buying power and thus the city's retail outlook.

The report recommends a survey of current El Cerrito businesses and customers to determine expansion needs, consumption, spending and demand for retail goods and services.

It calls for the city to develop a plan to assemble 80,000- to 100,000-square-foot lots to attract 40,000- to 60,000-square-foot office developments. "Focus efforts on identifying opportunity sites for office development and attraction such that the city can gain a sufficient critical mass of office that identifies El Cerrito as a business location," it says.

Possible "industry clusters" that could be attracted into the city include computer and software manufacturing, informational services, office supplies, staffing resources and other professional services such as medical and legal professionals, the report states.

The report calls for taking the Redevelopment Agency out of hiatus. "Use redevelopment wisely, as the tool and financing source for capital improvements to San Pablo Avenue, lot consolidations and business attraction and expansion implementation," it says. The Economic Development Board should consider

working in conjunction with redevelopment to "comprehensively plan for and implement office, retail and mixed-use development along the San Pablo Avenue corridor."

Recommendations to annex Richmond lands that front on San Pablo Avenue through the southern part of El Cerrito, to target retail businesses that would have a regional draw but would be supported by additional residential growth (and the resulting additional buying power) and to work to develop "an acceptable range of public/private partnerships" were also made. The report calls for development of a marketing campaign and outreach program to the real estate brokerage community, office developers and users, and retail businesses.

Councilman Mark Friedman called the report "a good synthesis of information," but added "We've studied enough and it's time to get going in implementing some of these recommendations."

Friedman said it is clear that the city needs to get an economic development manager who can work with new City Manager Scott Hanin on economic goals. The city has hired a consultant to help find and interview suitable candidates.

Friedman said the city needs "very specific measurable objectives" on economic development. "We need numbers," he said. Friedman said no more delay or debate is needed and called for the city to "aggressively carve out a greater niche in the marketplace for the city of El Cerrito."

Others on the council agreed it is

time to act. "I'm hoping that out of this we can formulate a game plan," Mayor Larry Damon said. "The study is telling us we have to have a singular objective and we have to develop a strategy by which we achieve that objective."

"The fact of the matter is we've got to come up with a strategy," Councilwoman Gina Brusatori told her colleagues. She said the Economic Development Board needs to become more focused. "Creating a strategy is going to be job one," Brusatori said. "I think it's going to be very important for their credibility and for ours to move forward."

Joe Grossman, chairman of the EDB, said the board hopes to "come back with something in the May time-frame." He said the city's economic development implementation plan will be prioritized, but pointed out that "Some things won't get done in the first year."

Plaza

FROM PAGE A1

"Our delivery dates and store openings are scheduled for the fall of this year," Knoedler said. He could not be more specific than that. "They're all pretty much opening up at the same time."

The existing buildings on the south side of the Plaza are to get a facelift to match the new construction. "We have that starting in August and we have that being completed in December," Knoedler said.

Jill Keimach, El Cerrito's community development manager, says that the reconstructed Plaza will give a definite boost to the city. "I think it's going to give the message to local businesses and future businesses that the city is now improving its economic base," she said. "Once one big mag-

net comes in and shows that Regency is willing to invest quite a bit of money in El Cerrito, it gives the messages to other businesses that this is worth spending your money on and it's worth coming into El Cerrito."

On a more immediate level, Keimach pointed out that the city will benefit from increased sales taxes and property taxes from the reconstructed Plaza.

"Most people are interested in what stores are coming in," Keimach said. "They're very pleased that it's the Gap and Gap Kids and Old Navy. They seem very pleased about the mix of stores that are coming in," she said. Keimach said a Macaroni Grill restaurant is "almost a done deal" for the Plaza. "I've only heard really good things about Macaroni Grill," she added. "It's a nice restaurant, but it's also good for kids."

Plaza shopper and El Cerrito resident Marilyn Rittenhouse said she is

looking forward to "places" opening in the Plaza this fall. She said the Plaza is a "great house" in her mid-70's, and she and her husband like the shopping at the Plaza. "I don't have a place close to home," she added and that the reconstructed Plaza will be "very good for her."

Verlaine Schweitzer lives in El Cerrito and comes to the Plaza often. She is looking forward to the Plaza's new businesses, but said she hopes the Plaza doesn't drive out the longtime merchants. "I sure don't want to lose any of the old retail shops," Schweitzer said. She comes to the Plaza about once a week to go to the Gap. The Junket and Sara's Nails are enjoy shopping down here, she said. "It's nice," Schweitzer said.

J.R. Deaton reports on El Cerrito can be reached at 510-245-3737 or jdeaton@ccimes.com.

Solano

FROM PAGE A1

vey, only to find the majority of business owners were against a new assessment district, Albany would have had to kiss the original \$5,000 goodbye.

"BIDs do in many ways what a mall management company does for a mall," explained Marco LiMandri, a New City America consultant who would have conducted the survey for the association.

"It's up to each business to determine the priorities," he said when asked by the council what services the BID would provide.

Each year a 30-day clause would allow businesses owners a chance to change the terms of the agreement. LiMandri's claim that he was not in it for the money did little to stir the hearts of council members.

Councilman Jon Ely, for one, questioned why the city should pay to conduct a survey when there is nothing indicating that the majority of the people on Solano are in favor of a BID.

Others agreed that if the Solano Avenue Association could conduct its own survey showing the majority's support, they might be willing to support the effort.

At the low end of the scale, the new fee would amount to about \$100 — the same as the Solano Avenue Association's annual membership fee. But an assessment could reach as high as \$500 or \$600 for larger businesses, an amount that was unacceptable to several people who spoke out at the meeting.

Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi argued that she knew of several small business owners who would have trouble paying any fee at all. "I'm concerned about staff time involved," she added. "We're a small city with a minimal number of employees."

Chamber of Commerce Director Roxanne Wiley also spoke against the request, saying it bothered her "as a taxpayer" that residents would ultimately have to pay back the city

in taxes.

While LiMandri said that once the billing cycle was put in place, it wouldn't require much upkeep, others worried that the new system might prove more time-consuming than expected. Mailings and a computer upgrade could complicate the process, according to Wiley.

Still, several business owners who showed up told the council that the city is failing to clean up streets and protect the area, resulting in the need for a change in the system.

Eric Husby-Gerry, a Solano Avenue chiropractor, argued that a BID would clean up Solano around San Pablo Avenue, which he described as a dangerous and litter-ridden intersection.

"It's survival of the fittest," he said, questioning the stability of a businesses that couldn't afford a fee.

Another local chiropractor worried about competition from other areas, echoing one of Bullwinkle's main concerns.

"The street needs to be marketed to compete with Emeryville, Fourth Street in Berkeley and El Cerrito Plaza," she said.

Andrew Woolman, an architect who recently opened a business in Albany, disagrees.

"Another levy on the cost of starting up a business would have discouraged me," he said. "I have yet to join the Chamber of Commerce."

Also at the heart of the dilemma is "maintaining Albany's small-town ambience," which the Albany Chamber of Commerce proposes as part of its mission on its Web site.

A new business district would have effectively replaced the Solano Avenue Association, which rakes in about \$120,000 a year in grants and other dues, though what that means for residents remains to be seen. The Solano Stroll and other benefits of a joint organization could be jeopardized if the two cities remain divided on the issue, Bullwinkle contends.

She remained unwavering by the concerns brought up at the meeting.

"We could make exemptions for San Pablo Avenue and low-income businesses," she said.

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Few turn out for meeting on genetically engineered food

By Ian Bauer
STAFF WRITER

Maybe people were too busy eating to come.

The Genetic Engineering Education Network (GEEN) held a meeting in Oakland Feb. 27 about genetically modified food. No one showed up, though, leaving only the founders of the group, Jennifer Shults, 33, and a young man named Sundance, 30, waiting for attendees at a large wooden table meant for many.

A few minutes after the start time for the meeting a new addition to GEEN, Gaia, a 25-year-old New Zealander, walked in. Later her father, Ollie Mikosza, 50, arrived, rounding out the meeting.

Shults says the last few meetings drew larger crowds.

"The machinery sort of broke down on this one. We didn't get the word out soon enough," she says. "The other meetings were better attended. The last one had about 50 people." Shults says the voluntary group currently has about nine members.

Shults, a chiropractic doctor, and Sundance, an Internet consultant, started the group as a way to inform people in the Bay Area about genetic engineering in the marketplace, primarily in ingredients put in food or medicines.

A technology that is coming into vogue more and more with large biotech corporations, genetic engineering is the process of altering the biologic, genetic code of an animal, plant or organism through techniques like gene-splicing, where DNA from one species is produced and made to function in another species or organism.

The hazard, according to GEEN and other organizations, including the environmental group Greenpeace, is that plant species and microorganisms created in the lab may cause an increase in cancer, food allergies, antibiotic resistance, the creation of new, more lethal viruses, and the attendant rise of genetic pollution, which may have far-reaching effects for future generations involving mutations in plant and animal species.

According to the Organic Consumers Association (OCA), large transnational corporations Monsanto and Novartis are active users of genetic engineering technology, creating modifications to food ingredients, then patenting their research and development creations for profit. OCA says that these two companies and other companies involved in this kind of technique state that their research and scientific experimentation is ultimately beneficial to everyone, lead-

ing to the elimination of starvation due to creation of disease-resistant agricultural crops, larger animals that produce more meat or cows that produce more milk to drink. The technique will also, according to biotech corporations, vastly change world public health for the better.

Members of GEEN, which is affiliated with the Ecology Center in Berkeley, call these assertions misleading, and the technique of genetic engineering very dangerous.

Sundance was disturbed by the introduction of these altered foods in the food that he eats. "I went to a meeting at the Ecology Center, and I got very involved in the problem. There seemed to be a need for this type of organization. I think in general people are concerned about what they put in their bodies," he says.

Shults agreed, saying, "As a chiropractor, nutrition is a big part of my practice. I'm really concerned about labeling and genetic engineering. Somehow the food companies got ingredients into food products without identifying them as being genetically engineered foods."

"I think GE (genetically engineered) products should be banned. Once you pollute the building blocks of life, you cannot take it back," Gaia says.

According to Greenpeace's "True Food Shopping List," commonly-known food products like Kellogg's Corn Flakes are genetically modified - the modified ingredient being corn. On a table behind where the group is sitting are products ranging from Kellogg's cereal to Similac baby formula, which the group says has genetically-modified soy as an ingredient.

"Due to some people's economic level, with those at the lower end having inexpensive baby formula, the danger is that a portion of society is being affected by this unknowingly," Shults says. Shults and the other members would like to expand their education more, even to schoolchildren, expanding awareness of what they believe may already be a major public health crisis.

"One thing people can do is boycott the companies that participate in using GE food," Shults says.

The "True Food Shopping List" indicates that Kellogg's has started a program to eliminate GE ingredients in its products in Europe, but that the multinational company has not done the same in the United States. The booklet states also that supermarket chains like Whole Foods and Wild Oats have eliminated GE ingredients from all of their own

brand-named products.

The OCA has its own list of 15 companies they refer to as The Frankenfoods Fifteen. The OCA is attempting to obtain written information from each company to identify which of the foods it sells have genetically-engineered ingredients, and urges the public to do so as well. The 15 companies are Kellogg's, Campbell Soup Company, Safeway, Frito-Lay, Nestle, Heinz Foods, Kraft, Hershey's, Coca-Cola, Nabisco, Quaker Oats, Starbucks, McDonald's, General Mills and Procter & Gamble.

David Bowlby, the northern California director of public affairs for Safeway Corporation, says, "Safeway does not sell genetically-engineered produce or vegetables. If we carried genetically-engineered produce and vegetables we would post a sign saying that these particular produce or vegetables are genetically modified or engineered." When asked whether the Safeway Corporation was aware of selling other products besides produce and vegetables that may contain modified food ingredients, Bowlby would not confirm or deny. "Our goal is to offer the best quality food possible," Bowlby says.

Tests conducted on products which contain GE ingredients - from

baby formula to veggie have been conducted. Reports. Consumer do not suggest that ingredients known to be genetically engineered will have ill effects on humans who consume them. However, Consumer Reports questions the nonlabeling of ingredients in food products. Sundance says that part of the problem in fighting the use of GE ingredients in food is the unwillingness of the United States is the government's unwillingness what is in the food that is ultimately eat. "Besides major corporations, it's the Food Association not checking themselves to make sure they only review the the companies themselves."

Albany will seek grant to fund Marin Avenue traffic study

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Residents worried about capital improvements funding being sucked up by traffic testing on Marin may breathe a sigh of relief.

At a recent meeting the City Council officially authorized the submission of a grant application for \$30,000 for the Office of Traffic Safety to conduct computer simulation testing for Marin Avenue traffic calming alternatives.

The other option would have been to start testing immediately using the city's own money.

Community development director Ann Chaney says she wasn't aware of the availability of a grant until an application from the city's Traffic and Safety Commission passed her desk in January.

Last November, the council held a study session to observe a computer simulation program used to test traffic alternatives. Afterwards, the council directed staff and Korve Engineering to return with an outline of how the program could be applied to the Marin plan.

No matching funds are required for the grant. If the applications are successful, it would be awarded Oct. 1. Testing could take about three months, meaning residents may see the results by the end of the year.

If the grant request is rejected, testing could begin even sooner.

Many people living on Marin — particularly those with school-age children — have long been lobbying for the city to take measures to slow traffic in the area.

The council set aside \$50,000 in

the Capital Improvements Program for transportation projects, \$30,000 of which has already been earmarked for testing.

The city plans to hire a consultant who would use computer software to simulate existing conditions and evaluate optional calming measures.

"The consultant would obtain traffic counts and other data, conduct field inspections, produce graphic figures, run the simulation and present the animation to the council," reads the grant application. "The simulations would help the council select the best approach prior to physical implementation."

If accepted, the grant will prove good news for some residents who worried about too much of the \$50,000 money in the Capital Improvement Program being taken

away from other traffic slowing measures in town. Former mayor Ruth Ganong was among those who spoke out at one council meeting, saying she was concerned about traffic problems on her own street.

The test will simulate traffic patterns at different times throughout the day, based on data they've collected from both Albany and Berkeley. The test will mimic traffic in the area a couple blocks both east and west of San Pablo on Marin, once Marin is reduced to three lanes with a turn lane. Another option it will test is traffic patterns once stop signs are placed every couple blocks on Marin.

"The three lanes would probably start on Stannage Avenue and go all the way east," explained Chaney. "On the east side of San Pablo the first block will remain four lanes." Then,

the transition would start west of San Pablo, narrowing gradually to three lanes.

From January, 1997 to June, 2000, Marin experienced 55 collisions with zero fatalities, according to a state report.

An engineering consultant selected to test traffic patterns on Marin held a workshop for a handful of residents several months ago based on a similar project they are conducting in Emeryville.

The California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency offered traffic safety grant opportunities to be awarded on a competitive basis to local and state governmental agencies, with a deadline earlier this year.

Ultimately, the implementation cost of traffic calming measures are estimated to reach \$1.5 million.

Teacher

FROM PAGE A1

average by 2002-03

In a secret ballot, all but one ATA's elected representatives voted against the interim agreement.

The district noted on its website that the teachers' union had voted on the proposed contract. De Hart said this was part of the union's policy.

Either party may ask State arbitrator Peter Lujan to decide the dispute again, so that the parties proceed to fact finding.

"I'd like to move this forward," said De Hart. "The way we're going, they will bring a lawsuit. The only question is timing."

Clare Curley reports on Albany Reach her at 510-245-0571 or mail at ccurley@octimes.com

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Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

March 23, 2001

Section B

Karen Senzig looks at the relationship between the 'Net and your mortgage [B8]
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B14]

Spectacular view, wonderful garden complement Berkeley home



DENNIS EVANOSKY

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY
 If having a spectacular view of San Francisco Bay is something you dream of, then take a tour of this Mediterranean-style home in the Berkeley hills. Three-bridge views extend for miles from the living room and both upstairs bedrooms.

If a wonderful garden excites you, then meander through this property. Its private front courtyard, hidden behind a stucco wall, is planted with lovely Japanese maple and persimmon trees that are just leafing out. Right now the azaleas and tulips are in bloom, as well as the camellias and the crabapple trees. Take time to sniff the daphne planted near the front door—the aroma is intoxicating!

The former owner was an avid gardener, and for 30 years she tended this garden with care. Hundreds of bulbs are planted throughout the grounds, as well as unusual species of rhododendrons, iris and many other perennials.

Her garden journal carefully recorded the names and dates of all her plantings. Surprises await the new buyer as the seasons unfold!

The size of the back garden is a surprise for visitors. The lot is 7,400 square feet and the back garden is comprised of three levels.

Terraces extend from the back patio down to a second patio area, then finally to a flat expanse of lawn. There are mature pine trees, Italian cypresses, and a prolific Meyer lemon.

In the house, all the hardwood floors have recently been refinished upstairs, including in the large living room with fireplace, and the dining room with built-ins.

Walls have been freshly painted, new carpeting and vinyl floors in-

Hundreds of bulbs are planted throughout the grounds, as well as unusual species of rhododendrons, iris and many other perennials.

stalled. From the updated kitchen take the stairs down to the lower level, which gives you access to the garden.

There you'll find an expansive room with wood-burning stove, perfect for a family room or home recreation center. French doors lead out to the patio. On this level you'll also find a bedroom and full bathroom. This entire floor could make an ideal au pair or in-law suite.

This three-bedroom, two-bath home has a one-car attached garage plus an off-street parking space. Behind the garage is the "creative space." In the past this room-with-a-view served as a jewelry workshop and then a sound studio. It now awaits its new owner to transform it into the next artist studio, play room, laundry room or wonderful storage space.

This home is located just north of the new Cragmont School at 734 Cragmont Ave. in the Berkeley hills. It will be open this Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. To see a video preview of this home visit berkhills.com and click on "listings" for Berkeley.

STOP BY THIS SUNDAY FROM 1 TO 5 P.M. and take a tour of this Mediterranean-style home in the Berkeley Hills. Three-bridge views extend for miles from the living room and both upstairs bedrooms



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Making those mortgage payments: a case for celebration or drudgery?

Number 356 in a series of true experiences in real estate

Both Anet and I, like the majority of homeowners, have mortgages. Mine is large, Anet's is smaller. Anet is intent on paying off her loan, while I have little hope of doing so.

Except for being thankful that I have the money to make the payment again each month, I send in my checks without much thought. I know that the balance is big and that most of my payment goes to interest. Once a year I get a statement that shows the balance, and I look at it, sigh, and file it away.

Anet, on the other hand, closely tracks her loan balance and whenever possible, she makes extra payments. At any given time, she knows precisely how much she owes, how much of each payment pays down her principal and in what amount.

She thinks of her loan payments as her savings plan. Instead of contributing to an IRA or other retirement investment, she puts money into her house.

For years, even in thin times, she has made at least one extra yearly loan payment. If she does not have enough to make a whole additional payment, she pays whatever extra she can. In this way, she proudly points out to me, thousands of dollars in interest are saved and the length of the loan is shortened.

Recently Anet refinanced her home loan at a lower interest rate, paying points to make the rate even better, and she chose a 15-year term. She ran lots of numbers before choosing this particular loan, figuring how, by adding money to her scheduled payments, she could pay it off in 10 years rather than 15. She had a grand time doing this. She likes running numbers and she likes having a retirement plan.

Anet looks forward with glee to the time when she owes no money on her house. She hasn't mentioned it but she might even have a mortgage-burning party. I'll bet she will. I, on the other hand, simply assume that when I die, my children will go on making the loan payments or will sell my house and pay off the loan from the proceeds.

Occasionally Anet makes a gentle attempt to convert me to her way of thinking. "You can pay off your loan," she'll say quietly, positively.

"Huh," I reply. "I borrowed so much during my divorce, there's

no way." Then, my pitch rising, I'll add, "I can't ever retire. I'll still be working when I'm 80."

Usually she lets it go at that point but occasionally, she'll go further. "I'm looking forward to your kids being on their own, to a time when we can travel. We just wouldn't work all of the time."

Anet is obviously better at looking toward the future than I am. I tend to think only of today, this week, no further than a month from now. I can think farther if I have to. Uncomfortably, but I can.

Assuming the kids do grow up, do leave home to live their lives elsewhere, and assuming that I could stand to engage in some activity other than work (all of these are hard for me to imagine), there are paths I might take. I could sell my house and maybe, rent something. There's an option. Would it cost me less to rent? I don't know. Will I have to sell the house anyway to help finance my kids' education? I don't know.

Maybe they'll go to trade school, become beach bums or, who knows, win a scholarship. I could stay where I am and find ways to continue to pay the mortgage — like working.

Or — here's a possibility — my mother left my brother and me a small house in Napa. I don't particularly want to live in Napa again, but the house is there, and if I sold my house in Oakland and bought my brother out, I could move in there.

Or my brother and I could sell the house. This would allow me to partially pay down the loan on my own house but would not get rid of it. It's something to think about.

Except that thinking about it makes my head hurt. Years ago, I remember meeting a young man at a party who described to me, with animated intensity, his Five-Year Plan. He had it all figured out, how his career would advance, what his investments would be, where he was going and how he would get there. I was in awe. Such thoughts had never crossed my mind. I found that I did not want them to.

I also have a friend who goes over her finances each morning right after she gets up. Honest to goodness, before she does anything else each day, she knows, to the penny, what she owes, what others owe her, how much money she will need (and when) to meet

True Experiences



By Tarpo and Talbert

her obligations. She says she finds the knowledge soothing. It doesn't sound soothing to me.

Call me shortsighted but I like living in the moment. Maybe I don't have the capacity to do anything else. I don't really care what my mortgage balance is because I'm too busy living my life today.

I'm hoping my kids are going to their classes and doing their homework today. I'm making notes about what our newspaper ads will say next week. I'm immensely curious to discover who will buy our new listing this month.

Anet's thinking is better, I'm sure. She doesn't ignore what is occurring right now — quite the opposite. But while fully engaged in current activities, she manages to think about and to plan for the future. She is optimistic. She looks forward to a variety of experiences in her life, expects them to occur.

That's why Anet keeps her mortgage balance in mind and works to pay it off. She is a forward-looking kind of gal.

Anet Tarpo and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached by e-mail at patanet@lmi.net or by phone at 510-653-2050.

Why are some houses harder to sell?

Why do some homes sell quickly, while others seem to take forever to sell? It's easy to blame the real estate market if a home is not selling. But if other homes in the neighborhood are selling, a bad market is probably not the culprit.

An ill-advised marketing strategy is often the problem. For example, recently a homeowner who had lived in her home for decades decided to sell. The decor of the home was dated, featuring garish wallpaper and worn carpets.

A listing agent advised this seller not to bother fixing up her home before putting it on the market. He told her that buyers would want to do their own decorating. So she put her home on the market without doing a thing. After months on the market with no offers, the listing expired.

Rather than renew the listing, the woman called another agent with a good track record for selling homes in her neighborhood. The second agent advised her to remove the wallpaper and to paint the interior a neutral color.

She recommended removing the wall-to-wall carpet in order to display the hardwood floors that were popular with buyers in the area. After a minimal make-over, the home was re-marketed at the same price.

It sold within a week, this time with multiple offers and for significantly over the asking price. A home that isn't selling may offer

a good buying opportunity, depending on why it hasn't sold. In the above example, a buyer with a good imagination could have purchased the property for a much lower price before the house was spruced up.

Houses that don't show well usually take longer to sell. A listing may show poorly because of bad taste or due to neglect. Deferred maintenance can be corrected, for a price. If a listing has been on the market for months, you may be able to negotiate a discounted price that will more than pay for any needed renovations. Bad taste can also be fixed. If you don't have a knack for seeing the potential a home has to offer, hire a decorator to advise you. Some listings take longer to sell because they have a defect that buyers in the area find objectionable. For example, a home without a garage may be difficult to sell in a neighborhood where most houses have garages. But, if you can buy it at the right price, and there's room to add a garage, you could get a good deal.

Other home defects like a bad floor plan, a location next to a freeway or on a busy street, or too many stairs are incurable.

If you decide to buy a home with an incurable defect, be aware that you may have difficulty selling it yourself later. Make sure that the price you pay is discounted accordingly.



By Dian Hymer

One of the most common reasons that listings don't sell within a reasonable time frame is that they are priced too high. When the price is set at market value, the listing usually sells.

But if a listing is priced too high, it can become worn. These listings often sell for less than they were priced to begin with. Sellers who have been in the market longer to sell for no particular reason. The price seems right. The home shows well. The listing effort is top-notch. Call it a home shows well. The listing effort is top-notch. Call it a home shows well. The listing effort is top-notch. Call it a home shows well.

Dian Hymer is the managing broker associate with Century 21 Banker in the Oakland/Piedmont area and author of "Starting Out in Real Estate: A Complete Home Buyer's Guide." Available in book form from Chronicle Books. (800) 722-4474.

Workshop focuses on energy efficiency

Free seminar tomorrow at Truitt & White Lumber Company

Berkeley City Energy Officer Neal De Snoo will conduct a seminar on the options available for incorporating energy efficient fixtures

and systems into residential remodeling and renovation projects. Topics will include energy-efficient lighting, natural heating and cooling, window products and placement, ventilation and solar systems.

You'll also walk away with several easy, low-cost tips for things you can do right away. Visit www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/energy for information on energy conservation and efficiency.

The seminar, scheduled for tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., is hosted by Truitt & White Lumber Company, located at 642 Haste Avenue in Berkeley.

Reservations required. Call 649-2674.

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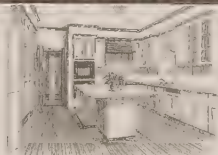
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Entertain family and friends in this spacious kitchen, adjacent deck and Great Room which look out to the eastern hills. Built in 1996, this smart contemporary has four bedrooms, four bathrooms, a powder room, formal dining room, living room, study/office, recreation room, solarium, three fireplaces, and a two-car attached garage.

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Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

news and information for and
the area real estate commu-
and affiliated industries.

TEND TECH FAIR 2001

Tech Fair
The Alameda Association of Re-
sellers and the Oakland Association
of Realtors are sponsoring Tech Fair
and the Bay East Associa-
tion. Scheduled for Mon-
day, March 26 through Friday, March
30, five days of training for real
estate professionals. The fair con-
cludes on March 30 with a vendor
show at 10 a.m. at Harbor
Square in Alameda is chairing
the event. For more de-
tails call 510-523-7229 or
visit www.techfair2001.com

OAR at 510-836-3000.

Fantastic Friday

Plans for Friday's close of the
Fair promise a BANG! not a whim-
per. Even if you can't attend any of
the superb seminars being offered
all week there is still plenty to see
and do on Friday.

At the Vendor Trade Show dis-
cover the newest advances in real es-
tate technology. Try products that
range from new software to the lat-
est hardware products and services.
Vendor demos will be presented
throughout the day from real estate's
top producing vendors.

The show opens at 10 a.m. at
Scott's Pavilion, Jack London Square,
Oakland. Complimentary refresh-
ments are offered beginning at noon
and the show continues until 4 p.m.

The show and all demos are free to
attendees.

CRS 206/Using Today's Technology

Earn 16 Consumer Service DRE
credits toward your CRS designa-
tion. This two-day seminar will
teach you how to effectively market
yourself with technology. Comput-
ers are provided. As part of the Tech
Fair, this class will be held on Mon-
day, March 26 and Tuesday, March
27. For more information call Nor-
Cal CRS at 800-277-6003.

Tech Retreat II: The Journey Begins

If you have your own laptop com-
puter and would like to learn more
of the bells and whistles, this class
is for you. Try your hand with palm
pilots, performance tools, digital
cameras and more. Learn about slide
shows, multimedia presentations and

virtual tours. Class is held on
Wednesday and Thursday, March 28
and 29. An optional marketing work-
shop and a course disk are included.
To find out more call 510-523-7229.
Beginners Hands On

If you have limited computer ex-
perience, but want to learn more, this

two-day real-estate-specific hands-
on training is for you. Learn com-
puter jargon and basic how-to's. This
class includes using the Internet,
email, e-commerce, attachments, an

see REID on page B6

Credit Worthy



By Bobbie
Reid

Montclair Better Homes Realty

6908 RIDGEWOOD DRIVE, OAKLAND

SHOWS BEAUTIFULLY...With a unique floor plan, this Montclair
contemporary redefines charm and beauty. You will enjoy a private
front deck, bright and spacious dining area, living room with a marble
fireplace, a large kitchen (brand new floor and counter tops), a lower
level multi-purpose rumpus room (with generous closet space). This
home has been carefully maintained over the years, with nothing to do
but move in and enjoy!

4+ bedrooms, 2 bath.

Asking Price \$549,000

Sunday Open House

March 25, 2001

2:00-4:30 PM

Nahid Nassiri
(510) 287-5770

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Call Julie Nachtwey

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of 31 Franciscan Way, Kensington

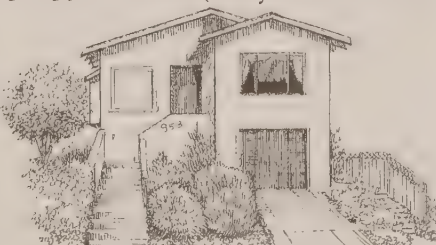


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6131 Doncaster

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824 Ensenada

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F 933 Forty Second St.

Oakland

943 Forty Second St.

Oakland

I appreciate my wonderful buyers and sellers. Thank you. I will do the
looking, screening, negotiating and helping you in every way possible in
realizing your dream. Please know my commitment is to make your
home selling or buying comfortable, stress-free and perhaps we can
have some fun along the way.

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Distinguished & captivating! A very special
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Bebe McRae, ext. 145.....\$1,550,000



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Traditional English style in coveted
neighborhood. Oversized lot. 4BR/3BA. Large
attic. Huge potential. Needs updating.
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44 DOMINGO • Open Sunday 2-4

A unique & spacious 1975 home in a very
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garage, fenced yard!
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A charming Colonial Revival duplex in
Elmwood! Two spacious units w/hardwood
floors. Excellent location near Alta Bates.
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2844 DERBY • Open Sunday 2-4:30

Absolutely beautiful woodwork detailing
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ceiling, fireplaces in both LR & DR w/built-ins!
Updated kitchen & bath, 2 sun rooms & fenced
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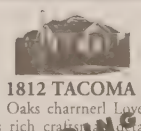
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Bernard Maybeck condominium. 1BR, 1BA,
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Rare craftsman beauty! Oversized lot. Flexible
floorplan. 3++BR/3++BA, double garage.
Susie Schevill, ext. 144.....\$645,000



1812 TACOMA

A Thousand Oaks charmer! Lovely 3BA/1BA
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Walking distance to BART, Ave. Thousand Oaks
School/Park. Call agent for details.
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Beautiful craftsman with magnificent yard! 3++
BR, 1.5BA, study, family room, formal dining
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775 VINCENTE • Open Sunday 2-4

Charming light filled English style home recently
updated. 4BR, 2BA, surrounded by wonderful
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beautiful contemporary in North Berkeley Hills! 3
bedrooms, den, 2.5 bath. Spectacular Bay views
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best building! 2000 sq ft 2BR, 2BA, hill views on quiet side! Walk to U.C. & Chez Panisse!
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3204 ELLIS Exceptional Victorian. Wondrous spaces & original character. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, new
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Oaks & set back from the street, this traditional w/half timbered stucco exterior looks out onto a sculptured oak.
Light filled 3BR/2BA, remod kitchen & 2+ rooms w/a beautiful garden.
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7235 BUCKINGHAM BLVD. Berkeley address Oakland taxes! Located on lower Buckingham, w easy
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PARKWOODS 360 Coldecott Lane #103 \$15 K price reduction! Stunning 2BR/2BA condo with
custom upgrades & fabulous amenities!
Tricia Swift, ext. 140.....\$360,000

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25 SEAGULL DRIVE MARINA BAY Wonderful sunny 2 story 3BR/2.5BA home built in 1991,
located in the Breakers walking distance to the Bayshore Regional trail, pretty garden entry w/level private rear
yard.
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Keep your hand on the pulse of real estate in the East Bay. See Weekly Sales on page B1.

Open House Sunday, March 25th, 2 to 4:30 pm



1260 Trestle Glen Road, Oakland

Sited on an exceptional lot, this Elegant Mediterranean home offers all the amenities of an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. Traditional appointments include: hardwood floors, built-ins, french doors, a paver-tile patio, and lush garden spaces.

Offered at....\$629,000

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POPULAR PARKWOODS CONDO



280 Caldecott Ln., #103 - Oakland

Beautiful "Montclair" 2 bedroom 2 bath with hardwood floors. This unit faces the quiet side of complex and gets lots of sunshine. Open gourmet kitchen w/built-in customized cabinets. You will especially love all the amenities in this newer complex, including pool, gym, sauna, hot tub, security gate, and on site maintenance.

Asking Price \$355,000

For more information or to schedule a private showing, please contact:

Denise Milburn

vm 510-869-4683

office 510-849-3711



Open, March 25 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM



20 Sunrise Hill, Orinda



Nancy Rothman

Office (925) 253-6209

Residence (510) 654-6878

nrothman@pacunion.com

Spanish Colonial Contemporary

Spanish colonial with the flavor of contemporary. Using an innovative mix of old world charm and contemporary elements, this home has a veranda with wisteria, a generous tile walls of glass, and adobe brick exterior. Simple lines. Five plus bedrooms, one-half baths, eat-in kitchen, exercise or bonus room, pool and patio plus huge lot. Fruit trees and mature landscaping. Unique, warm and filled with love.

price upon request

PACIFIC UNION

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★ ★ NEW ROCKRIDGE LISTING ★ ★ ★ OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2001 1-5PM ★ ★ OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2001 1-5PM ★



Remodeled Craftsman

5526 Taft Avenue

\$785,000

Come see this Remodeled Craftsman home in Rockridge. The main house features 4+Bedrooms, 3+ bathrooms, and an in-law studio apartment that could be used for a guest suite, income source, home office, family retreat, au-pair, art studio, or ??? The kitchens and bathrooms have been tastefully remodeled. There is a spacious master suite, a formal living room w/a fireplace, a formal dining room w/a built-in china cabinet, a plus room perfect for a home office/den, and there is an additional bedroom suite on the 1st floor. This home has it all, great architectural features like, crown molding, box beam ceilings, gleaming hardwood floors, a huge friendly front porch, a landscaped yard, and is on one of Oakland's friendliest streets. Located in the Heart of Rockridge and close to College Avenue Shops and many Fine Restaurants, Market Hall, BART, Freeways, Casual Carpooling to SF, Berkeley, Downtown Oakland, Emeryville, and Great Coffee.

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Panoramic 3 Bridge View.....\$735,000
Fabulous downslope Hiller townhouse. Enclosed patio with hot tub. Upgraded. Atrium, Home office. Approx. 2042 sq.ft., 3+BR, 2+BA. Virtual Tour on Realtor.com.
GAYLE TANTAU ext. 260

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

Custom Townhome with SF/CG View...\$625,000
State-of-the-art Hiller home with hardwood, spiral staircase, marble, Corian, pecan cabinets, spa tub, huge multipurpose room, 2BR, 2BA.
GAYLE TANTAU ext. 260

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

New Listing - Upper Laurel.....\$325,000
Charming spacious 2+BR, 1BA. Lovingly cared for CA bungalow in prime location with nice yard. For the fussy buyer.
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Coming Soon!
Decorative perfect 2BR, 2BA condo in landmark Lake Merritt building. Stunning views, private garage, 2nd floor. 2nd floor.
Don't Miss Tremendous Opportunity!
Grand fixer with huge upside potential. 4+BR, 2+BA. Approx. 2000 sq.ft. Call for appointment to see.
Adorable Farmhouse.....
OPEN/SUNDAY 2-4. 1st open, lg. level yard.
Great Lot in the Claremont!
Marque Weston built over 100 years old. Great lot in prime location. Call for appointment to see.

Panoramic Views!.....\$649,000
Deluxe 3BR, 2BA co-op overlooking Lake Merritt & East Bay Hills. Marble floors, state-of-the-art kitchen, 40' balcony are just a few of the amenities.
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Conveniently located duplex plus detached cottage, walk to BART, zoned commercial, approx. 3400 sq.ft. Ideal for live/work.
MARY HANNA ext. 253

Spacious Condo.....\$279,000
Quiet, yet convenient Rose Garden location. 2BR, 2 full BA, pets OK! Call for appointment to see.
TOM NEMETH ext. 249

Coming Soon!
2BR, 2BA condo in landmark Lake Merritt building. Stunning views, private garage, 2nd floor. 2nd floor.
Don't Miss Tremendous Opportunity!
Grand fixer with huge upside potential. 4+BR, 2+BA. Approx. 2000 sq.ft. Call for appointment to see.
Adorable Farmhouse.....
OPEN/SUNDAY 2-4. 1st open, lg. level yard.
Great Lot in the Claremont!
Marque Weston built over 100 years old. Great lot in prime location. Call for appointment to see.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

Piedmont Side of Montclair.....\$625,000
Nestled amidst trees, this lovely craftsman-style home features 2BR, 2BA, open wood ceiling & exquisite gardens.
GAYLE TANTAU ext. 260

Mountain View.....\$625,000
Expansive and well-maintained. Great room w/ fireplace, hardwood. Formal dining, family room master suite + home office. 3+BR, 2.5BA, dbl. garage with acc.
GAYLE TANTAU ext. 260

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

Grandma's Bungalow Grows Up!.....\$275,000
Traditional bungalow with recent family room, 2BA addition. Loads of space. Move-in condition. Lush garden & deck. Convenient to everything.
STEVEN BIASATH ext. 249

Coming Soon!
2BR, 2BA condo in landmark Lake Merritt building. Stunning views, private garage, 2nd floor. 2nd floor.
Don't Miss Tremendous Opportunity!
Grand fixer with huge upside potential. 4+BR, 2+BA. Approx. 2000 sq.ft. Call for appointment to see.
Adorable Farmhouse.....
OPEN/SUNDAY 2-4. 1st open, lg. level yard.
Great Lot in the Claremont!
Marque Weston built over 100 years old. Great lot in prime location. Call for appointment to see.

Don't miss
this week's
Open
Home
Guide on
page B14

OPEN SUNDAYS

March 25th. • April 1st 2-4 p.m.



El Cerrito - \$310,000

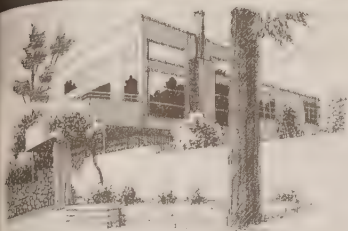
1207 Richmond Street

Great Condition! 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, dining area, eat in kitchen, attached garage, lanai/cabana with bar and a storage shed in backyard.



Diane Sindel-Deutsche
Broker/Owner
(510) 524-8508
Diane S Deutsche@aol.com

Sophisticated Gem on Rare Land



148 Avenida Drive,
Berkeley

Susan Peterson

Office (925) 253-6223
Fax (925) 258-0093
speterson@pacunion.com

New Listing!

Sophisticated & stylish contemporary home renovated in 1996 with amazing sensitivity offers a rare opportunity to live in your own park on approximately 1/3 acre. Golden Gate views and walls of glass invite the majestic and serene gardens into the house. Three bedrooms, three baths, eat-in kitchen, family room, au pair quarters and detached studio.

\$1,095,000

PACIFIC UNION

8 Camino Encinas • Orinda



Orinda Country Club Area

Light filled, easy living in this remodeled, sophisticated one-level country club home. Expansive views, great outdoor living, secluded decks and gardens. Architectural features include French doors, hardwood floors and a Chef's country kitchen, family room. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, spacious master suite.

\$1,295,000

PACIFIC UNION

8 Camino Encinas • Orinda
1900 Mountain Blvd. • Oakland

Nancy Rothman

Office (925) 253-6209
Residence (510) 654-6878
nrothman@pacunion.com

Open Sunday 2-4:30



31 Blair Avenue, Piedmont

Delightful and stylish 1921 Craftsman located just steps from Dracena Park! Spacious formal rooms with hardwood floors throughout. New gourmet eat-in kitchen. Two large bedrooms, one updated bath, charming flagstone garden.

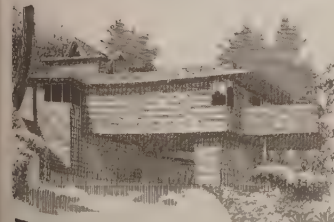
Offered at \$507,000

Connie Rogers
Office: 339.0400/204
Home: 510.658.9708
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB Co.

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

THE WRIGHT STUFF



Debi Fitzgerald

510-339-6460 x306

PACIFIC UNION

Featuring four bedrooms and three full baths, this sleek, modern home recalls the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Hand-carved entry door, clear redwood paneling, gallery style lighting, and beveled glass corners add distinctive architectural flair.

- Redwood paneled living room, level-out to wraparound deck
- Formal dining room also opens to the deck
- Updated eat-in kitchen with custom skylights
- Upstairs master suite with cathedral ceiling and clerestory windows
- Bay-view hot tub deck
- Unique, upstairs library-studio
- Sited well off the street, with lovely mature landscaping
- Two-car carport with ample secure storage and additional level, off-street parking

6070 Colton Boulevard, Oakland
Offered at \$569,950
Open Sunday 2:00-4:30

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You've got the best of two worlds: our better-than-ever Classified section now includes the expansive Contra Costa Newspapers Classified market as well as the Hills marketplace! That means more ads, more choices, more results! Look for these new and improved benefits:

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LAFAYETTE



NESTLED IN THE WOODS! \$639,000
Backs to nature with privacy and views from this spectacular home w/ 4 bedrooms, 2 baths & large living room w/ fireplace, many updates, and on an extra large lot
Visit our website for a Virtual Tour!

LAFAYETTE



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4pm! \$949,000
Traditional home in a desirable neighborhood and a great location! 3 bedrooms, upgrades throughout, and a beautifully landscaped yard
Visit our website for a Virtual Tour!

BERKELEY

\$279,000

A fabulous condo in a great location near University, shops and restaurants! Featuring 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and private entry. Better hurry, this won't last long!

ALAMEDA

\$399,000

Bay Farm Island 2 bedroom, 2 bath, single story home w/ 2 car garage. Walk to top rated schools, shopping, transportation and shoreline
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4pm!

OAKLAND

\$199,000

Two commercial lots in the heart of downtown Oakland! 11,071 sq. ft. on level lots, located in new China Town, with easy access to freeway and BART.

CASTRO VALLEY

\$279,950

Adorable doll house w/ 3 spacious bedrooms, updated kitchen, brick fireplace, newer roof, immaculate front and rear yards, and custom brick barbecue included! Hurry, won't last!



Diane Britto (925) 975-4331
Peter Fletcher (510) 521-1177

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Reid

FROM PAGE B3

Thursday March 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 510-523-7229 to register. **Computer Seminars**

You say you just don't have the time for day-long seminars? Is one hour doable? Friday, March 30 is filled with hour-long seminars on computer basics needed in today's marketplace. Topics include e-mail, Internet marketing and tech tools. Access to these seminars is included in the price of admission, just ask about the T.G.I.F. Package. Call 510-523-7229.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Workshop In Womanspeak

The Woman To Woman Workshop educates women on the basic principles of homebuying. Issues and concerns dealing with women are addressed in "womanspeak." The workshop includes home selection insights and demystifying the purchase process. Qualifying guidelines, closing costs and cost reduction will be explained. The workshop facilitator is mortgage broker, Karen Ward of RE Loan Mortgage in Albany. The workshop is available at no cost, but reservations are a must. The next date is Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. For reservations call the Workshop Hotline at 510-718-2134.

First Time Homebuying

Attend a free first time homebuyers seminar. Michael J. Smith & Associates Real Estate Company presents ongoing seminars for those interested in learning the ins and outs of homebuying. A variety of topics are covered, including how to buy for no money down. To register for a future seminar call 510-430-8484.

UNIQUE HOMEBUYING EXPO

Cherry Creek Mortgage is looking for a few good real estate profes-

sionals to participate in their Real Estate Expo. This isn't your typical homebuyer's fair. Attendees will be prequalified before entering the expo. Only two real estate offices from each geographical location are invited. Prequalified buyers will be directed to a participating booth for their geographic area. Participants will showcase their listings. At least one closed transaction guaranteed. The Expo is Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Oakland Coliseum. For further information contact **Monique Washington** of Cherry Creek Mortgage at 800-325-2062 extension 258.

G & L CHAMBER MIXER

The Alameda Chamber of Commerce April Mixer will be held at Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors and hosted by President/Broker **Don Lindsey**. The date is April 11 and the location is the newly remodeled Central Avenue office of G&L. Festivities are from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with catering by Maitland Market. Don't miss this opportunity for food, fun and business networking. For additional info call G&L at 510-521-8181.

MORTGAGE INDUSTRY MEETINGS

Attention Mortgage Professionals. Learning more about an industry is as important as being a part of that industry. The California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL) and the California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMB) strive to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed. Both have monthly dinner meetings, with guest speakers discussing timely topics. CARL meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month beginning with networking at 6 p.m. Networking also kicks off each CAMB meeting, held on the third Thursday of each month. To find out more call these organization's hotlines. The CARL Hotline is 925-746-1847. The CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663.

The Breakfast Club

The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings are presented by the California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held at Financial Title in Danville and begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. No need for reservations. A continental style breakfast is offered. Upcoming speakers are on March 28th, **Mari Gottdiener, JD** of Outsourcing Solutions on "Credit Repair — Done The Right Way" and on April 4th, **Pam Matallano** of Temple-Inland speaking on "Stated Income Programs". Need info? Call **Pat Johnson** of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services at 925-296-3300.

Speaker - Speaker

The CARL Breakfast Club is looking for timely and interesting speakers. Do you know of any? If so, please call **Pat Johnson** at 925-296-3358 or **Dale Junta** at 925-838-0140.

BOWLING BY REALTISTS

Strike Or Spare

You don't have to be a tournament quality bowler. Strike, spare or even gutter balls, it makes no difference because it's just for fun. The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB)

are planning their Annual Family Fun Bowling Night. Bring the whole family. It's at Alameda Bowl beginning at 7 p.m., Friday, March 30. Pizza and pop is included. If you would like more information or wish to attend contact **Bridget Cain** of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

RE LICENSE RENEWAL

Renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The instructor will be "The Real Estate Guys" talk show host, **Charlie Krackeler**. Seminars are held on weekday mornings, in a variety of Bay area locations. For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

New member! **Bob Munoz**, Broker/Owner of Independent Real Estate Brokers announced the addition of a new satellite branch in Alameda. **Dr. V. George Rhoden** was named Branch Manager. Dr. Rhoden has retired from his Podiatry practice and is now a real estate practitioner. He hails originally from Jamaica and is

an Olympic double Gold Medalist. To extend best wishes call the Doctor at 510.865.4687.

Processor Extrordinaire. **George Duarte**, president of Horizon Financial and Board of Directors member for the California Association of Mortgage Brokers says a new processor has joined the Horizon Team. **Yolanda Gomez**, with over seven years in the mortgage industry, will be keeping the numbers churning. Gomez began her career as mortgage loan consultant in the Oakland area. To say congrats, call 510-793-1900.

Larry Smith, Alameda County Manager for First California Title announced a new Marketing Manager for their new San Lorenzo branch. **Vickie Pereira** comes to FCT with fourteen years experience, in marketing and administration in the title industry. Pereira would love a

call at 510-278-4149.

Who's new at Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors in Alameda? Onboard **Stephanie Dumas**. Karen Wright, Dumas' assistant, will be crossing the t's and dotting the i's as she calls G&L at 510-521-8181.

CAN WE TALK????

I need your information for a column. Fundraisers, announcements, press releases and change of address (company). I want to know Deadline is the Friday before publication. There are no exceptions. Send an e-mail to **bierleid@dotplanet.com** or call me at 510-441-7131 or 510-581-4080.

To contact the real estate editor, call 510-748-1655 or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com



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HANNAH GOODY



2803 Hillegass, Berkeley

A sunny Elmwood brown-shingle with enormous rooms!
Oak paneling, hardwood floors, big windows
+ 2 studio rental units.

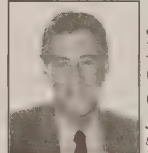
\$700,000Kathryn Hill
Real Estate Broker**THORNWALL** (510) 848-1950 x 242
Properties

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Jim Hedges

Manager/Realtor

(415) 921-0113 S.F. office

(510) 287-9001 East Bay office

Jim lives in Berkeley and has been serving the East Bay & SF for 19 years.

Please call Jim for your real estate needs.

If you are interested in a career in Real Estate, call **Jim Hedges**.

Redwood Heights

Open Sun • March 25 • 2 - 4:30



3387 Jordan Road, Oakland

Immaculate, all-level Redwood Heights Ranch. Located across from lovely wooded park. 3 spacious bedrooms, includes bedroom suite. New double paned windows. Lovely hardwood floors. Level rear yard for gardening or play. Central patio courtyard. Close to transportation. Don't miss this great house.



Offered at \$439,000

Diane Earl McCan

Your Redwood Heights Specialist

Senior Sales Consultant

(510) 339-6460 ext. 352

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BEGINNER PACKAGE: \$225

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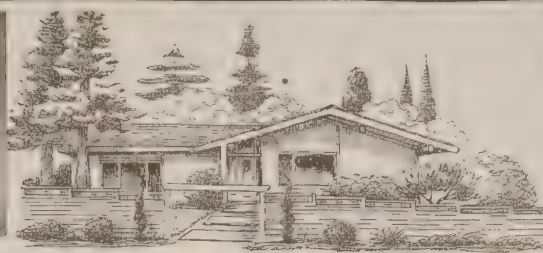
• Tech Retreat II Package

• Tech Retreat II Package

• Tech Retreat II Package

Don't miss the Open Home Guide on page B14

COMING SOON!

Chloe Friday Judy
510-986-9487Prudential
California Realty342 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, Ca. 94611

UNIQUE • LEVEL • MONTCLAIR

- ◆ Favorite Fernwood neighborhood-walk to Montclair Village
- ◆ Walls of glass bring the outdoors in yet completely private
- ◆ Beautiful lush gardens surround 3 bedroom/2 bath all level residence
- ◆ Contemporary character/ timeless design

Offered at \$649,000

View This Home Online at:
www.JohnBergman.com

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Check out www.JohnBergman.com to receive FREE Buyer information or check out my no hassle Buyer Profile Program which allows you to receive daily updates of listings automatically. To see this home or other homes in the area, call John Bergman at (510) 317-7165.

Buyers - Get pre-approved FREE of charge on this or any other home with the best financing available. Call Mike Giaptsoglou (Mike G.) at CMG Mortgage, Inc. 1-800-823-7872 Ext. 2246

OPEN HOUSE

Sat & Sun 2-4pm



Alameda - Harbor Bay

4 Bedrooms / 3 Baths

\$689,000

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Free 1-877-800-2339 ID# 5000

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OPEN SUNDAY • March 25 • 2-5 pm

3237 Monterey Blvd., Oakland



NEW CONSTRUCTION

Distinctive and spacious Contemporary features living rm. w/ fireplace, formal dining rm., huge gourmet kitchen, 5 bedrms., 3.5 bathrms., plus a large partially finished 3 rm. basement area w/ separate entrance. Amenities include a lavish use of granite, marble, hardwood and magnificent views of the Mormon Temple, the City and the Bay and GG Bridge

Offered at \$939,000

Barbara Hopper

Prudential California Realty

(510) 845-0211 VM: (510) 986-9553

Open Sunday 2-4:30

132 Moraga Avenue, Piedmont

This charming traditional home is located close to Piedmont Ave. Features include an updated kitchen, formal dining room, hardwood floors & 3BR/2BA. Offered at \$499,000

560 Jean Street, Oakland

A great home in the desirable Rose Garden area. Three bedrooms, one bath all on one level. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room and eat-in kitchen with deck access. Offered at \$449,000

7400 Woodrow Drive, Oakland

Dramatic and architectural, with beautifully created outdoor spaces, this new home features hand plastered walls, a gourmet kitchen with adjacent family room, master retreat, expansive ceilings and so much more. Offered at \$949,000



Kurt Buchholz

Office: 339.0400/221

Residence: 531.1091

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81 Mandana Blvd. \$568,000
Crocker Highlands. Sunny traditional with 3BD/2BA, updated kitchen & breakfast nook, formal dining. Good outdoor living, spacious patio & pretty garden. Open 2-4:30 p.m.
Dian Hymer

FIRST OPEN

255 Sylvan Rd. \$628,000
Oakland Hills. California sunsets, terrace views, incredible setting! Spacious, sunny 4BD/3BA, family room. 2 FP's, gorgeous hwdw flrs, & large lot. Great location. Open 2-4:30 p.m.
Evelyn Walker

556 Bellevue Ave. #2204. \$319,000
2nd floor. Rooms with a View! This remodeled condo unit has a dramatic sweeping view of the hills and bay. Open floor plan and top quality kitchen. Open 2-5 p.m.
Jerry Dolan

OPEN SUNDAY

345 Skyline Blvd. \$449,000
Sunny & private, classic "A Frame" just steps to regional park entrance. 2BD, loft, bonus room. 2 full baths, hwdw flrs, 2-car garage. Open 2-4:30 p.m.
George Karsant

\$585,000

628 Santa Ray. \$585,000
East Piedmont Heights. 3BR & Breakfast Charm. 1924 English country conveniently located to shops. Easy commute. 3BD/3BA. Delightful! Open 1-4 p.m.
Ruby Ng

1050 Arrowhead Dr. \$799,000
Montclair. 1991 Contemporary. Bright, move-right-in 3BD/2.5BA, hwdw flrs, soaring ceilings, cook's garden, lovely FP, hardwood, 3BD/2BA. Family room too! Open 2-4:30 p.m.
Ellen Lancaster

5015 Elm Dr. \$419,000
Montclair. Great starter home near Montclair Village, shops & restaurants. Deck for viewing sunsets, FP, 2 car garages, formal dining. Open 2-4:30 p.m.
Deli Dr

BY APPOINTMENT

Upper Oakmead. \$689,000
Sunny traditional 3+BD/2BA, loaded with charm. Features eat-in kitchen, formal dining, private yard, 2-car garage for office or den.
Dian Hymer

Montclair. \$499,000
Contemporary! Serene outlook. Enjoy a view of the bay from the living room with airy vaulted ceiling, updated kitchen, garage 3BD/2BA.
Ruby Ng



20 Anderson Rd. \$639,000
Harbor Bay/Alameda. Handsome 4BD/3BA Columbia Bay home on a cul-de-sac with lagoon access. Great yard! Open 2-5 p.m.
Fritz Hochleitner



6460 Mokelumne. \$279,000
Oakland. Millsom Hills 4BD/2BA. Hills & wooded view. Newer appliances, hardwood under carpet, patio, fireplace, hot tub, garage. Open 1-4:30 p.m.
Victor Hatto

21 Ulster Pl. \$469,000
Harbor Bay/Alameda. Steps from the water! Take walks along tranquil lagoons and bay front. Take the ferry to work! You'll love this charming 3BD home. Open 2-5 p.m.
Mary Anne Foss

1254 Holman Rd. \$685,000
Crocker Highland A 10+ Home. Tastefully updated traditional 3BD/2.5BA, family room, stunning kitchen w/granite counter & wet bar. New deck & new roof. Open 1-4:30 p.m.
Nader Davari

4657 Davenport. \$439,000
Charming, sunny 1940 traditional conveniently located for easy commute. Bay view, fabulous garden, lovely FP, hardwood, 3BD/2BA. Family room too! Open 2-4:30 p.m.
Ruby Ng

5015 Elm Dr. \$419,000
Montclair. Great starter home near Montclair Village, shops & restaurants. Deck for viewing sunsets, FP, 2 car garages, formal dining. Open 2-4:30 p.m.
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Dian Hymer

Montclair. \$499,000
Contemporary! Serene outlook. Enjoy a view of the bay from the living room with airy vaulted ceiling, updated kitchen, garage 3BD/2BA.
Ruby Ng

COLDWELL BANKER

PREVIEWS
EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTIES

Montclair. \$1,095,000
7251 Skyline. Secluded bay view. Over 4,000 sq. ft. surround two large decks. large separate studio w/bath. 11,000 sq. ft. lot, same level terrain. First Open, Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.
Jack Breneman



Upper Rockridge. \$1,085,000
6840 Ocean View Dr. Classic Spanish Mediterranean. Blend the character of the 1930's Spanish Mediterranean with tasteful renovation and you have this 4 bedroom home. First Open, Sunday 2-5 p.m.
Michael Thompson



Upper Rockridge. \$1,075,000
Spanish & Style. Extraordinary in style in this Spanish home with soaring ceilings and looks directly out onto San Francisco and Golden Gate Bridge. Call for appointment.
Michael Thompson



The Life of Luxury in the Oakland Hills. \$1,200,000
JUST LISTED! Soaring ceilings and a lush green setting offer a refuge from the bustle of city life with serene views of green hills and open space. 4BR/2.5BA, family room, formal dining, three fireplaces and deck access to the outdoors. Top quality in this contemporary luxury home w/custom details like marble & granite, built in May of 2000. Easy San Francisco commute.

BERKELEY • 510.486.1495



BAY VIEWS FROM CUSTOM BUILT UPPER ROCKRIDGE HOME. \$695,000
JUST LISTED! Fantastic 3 bedroom, 2+ bath home custom built in 1998. Gourmet kitchen, spacious family room with fireplace that opens onto rear deck and yard. Near College Ave/Piedmont Ave/Montclair restaurants and shopping. EZ San Francisco commute.



DARLING NORTH BERKELEY CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW. \$529,000
JUST LISTED! Warm, beautifully appointed, full of sunlight and surprisingly spacious 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal dining & hardwood floors. Large back yard with patio, lovely garden, spa and garage workshop.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

BERKELEY
1518 Martin Luther Jr. Way. \$529,000
Beautiful Craftsman bungalow. 4BR, 2BA.
The Longs

1911B 8th Street. \$390,000
Gorgeous rebuilt, remodeled 3 BR, 2 BA Condo.
Nacio Brown

2143 Eunice. \$369,000
Brownshingle, 2 BR, 1 BA
Bobbie Giarratana

1617-19 Channing. \$369,000
Duplex 1 BR each
Dave Moss

1632 Parker. \$239,000
Cute cottage, serious fixer.
Jeanne McHugh

OAKLAND
6350 Broadway Terrace. \$695,000
Custom built in 1998. 3 BR, 2+BA.
Nacio Brown

EL CERRITO
5382 Rosalind. \$289,000
2 BR w/remodeled kitchen & bath.
Holly Rose

BY APPOINTMENT

FOR THE CREATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE. \$658,000
10 bedrooms, 3.5 baths in North Berkeley! Currently a nursing home for seniors. Check out the possibilities!

FABULOUS WEST BERKELEY CONDO, LIKE NEW. \$390,000
Beautifully designed condo, rebuilt with top quality materials and workmanship. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, light-filled spaces. Totally remodeled, new kitchens, foundation, wiring, plumbing, and more! Super location, easy access to 4th Street shops, restaurants and SF commute.

NORTH BERKELEY BROWN SHINGLE CRAFTSMAN. \$369,000
JUST LISTED! View the sunset over the bay from the balcony of one of the upstairs bedrooms, or from sleeping porch/office of other bedroom! 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, many original details, light-filled and full of charm

CENTRAL BERKELEY DUPLEX. \$369,000
JUST LISTED! Spacious 1 bedroom units, each with formal dining rooms, fireplaces, hardwood floors and separate garages. Near transportation

ON THE SUNNY SLOPES OF EL CERRITO. \$289,000
JUST LISTED! Super cute 2 bedroom home across from Pointsett! Park. Remodeled kitchen & bath, garage converted to office/studio. Hardwood floors, wedgewood store, picket fence. Walk to BART or bus.

DARLING BUT DILAPITATED IN BERKELEY. \$239,000
JUST LISTED! Charming cottage style home on large lot in convenient and desirable central Berkeley. House is serious fixer. Failed roof and dry rot galore. No amenities except location, yard and basic structure. The faint of heart need not apply!

PIEDMONT AVENUE CONDO. \$185,000
JUST LISTED! Darling 1 bedroom in well maintained building. Near shops, cafes, restaurants and cinema. Verdant views through wall of glass. Private balcony. Fabulous floor plan and loads of closet space.

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The Internet and your mortgage

The mortgage industry has come a long way from the days of typewriters and loan committees. They have dragged us dinosaurs (mortgage brokers in the business for more than 15 years) kicking and screaming into the 21st century of digitized Internet access to over 5,000 lender sources.

Surprisingly, the Internet lenders themselves, such as "e-loan" and "mortgage.com" have not fared as well as the lending resources for mortgage brokers.

Most industry analysts agree that the major problem with these online only mortgage companies was that in trying to offer the lowest rates to potential borrowers, their margin was too low to operate a profitable business.

While many borrowers would use the online mortgage service to get pre-approved for a purchase money loan, they would then visit a traditional lender or mortgage broker who could hold their hand through the process.

However, the Internet support systems for mortgage brokers and lending institutions have radically affected the industry standards. In

1997 Fannie Mae introduced Desktop Originator and Desktop Underwriting.

This began a new concept in the underwriting process called risk based underwriting. It involved the use of credit scoring and threw the standards of housing and consumer debt ratios out the window.

In a nutshell, it offered the very lowest fixed interest rates to people with good credit and work histories with very little paperwork involved. In 1998, Freddie Mac introduced their online system called Loan Prospector.

Mortgage brokers needed to be sponsored by approved lenders to use both the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac systems and we were trained by those lenders.

It was a software based system that has since yielded to a direct Web site. The loans products were limited to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac approved conforming guidelines (limiting maximum loan amounts for single family homes to \$275,000 in 2001).

In a move to circumvent the process and originate more loans, major lenders such as Countrywide Home Loans, Indy Mac and Provident Funding introduced their own Web sites, offering all their loan products, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Jumbo investor loans, and actually requiring on-line loan submissions for pre-approval.

Mortgage Madness



By Karen Senzig

Web sites, offering all their loan products, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Jumbo investor loans, and actually requiring on-line loan submissions for pre-approval. We still must completely package the loan and physically send it to the lender, but the efficiency of the process cuts down on the underwriting time once the loan gets to the lender. This efficiency also helps the lenders keep their interest rates as competitive as possible.

However, the big drawback we've faced with this new-fangled system is that if your DSL line goes down, as ours did last week, we are out of business until we can get back online.

I guess the biggest hero in Mortgage Madness today is the computer guy!

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-3814, e-mail at ksenzig@aol.com.

Preparation always first step in paint job

Although it was more than 30 years ago, we still can visualize our folks — Morris Sr. and Alvera — perched on ladders meticulously painting the ceilings in the living room and dining room of the home where we grew up.

The Mediterranean-style home, built by our contractor grandfather at the turn of the last century, had 12-foot coved plaster ceilings with intricate plaster cornices and a decorative wood picture rail. It was a nightmare to paint since the cornices and picture rail were painted a different color than the base color of the ceiling.

Mom and Dad had plenty of experience painting and making home repairs around the old house. It was amazing to watch them transform the dingy ceilings — tainted with soot from the oil burner in the basement — into a work of art. We credit our fascination with remodeling to our folks.

They taught us early on that a top-of-the-line paint job is the result of good planning and job preparation along with top-quality tools and materials. After more than 20 years as remodeling contractors, we couldn't agree more.

Preparation (cleaning, scraping, sanding, patching and priming) accounts for well over three-quarters of a good paint job. Taking your time and using high-quality patching products will yield the most

professional results. Remove as much loose paint as possible (down to bare wood, if necessary) using a scraper. Fill uneven surfaces and damaged areas with an exterior grade vinyl-spackling compound, let dry, sand smooth and spot prime with an oil-base primer-sealer.

When choosing paint, let price be your guide. The less expensive the paint, the harder you will work. If you enjoy painting, go for the bargain-basement stuff — you'll get plenty of practice. The notion that you can end up with one-coat coverage that will last five or more years for \$5.99 a gallon is wishful thinking. Plan to spend \$20 to \$25 per gallon for your acrylic latex paint.

Water-based latex paint is the first choice for interior and exterior walls and ceilings. It is user-friendly and makes for easy soap-and-water cleanup.

Oil-based paints are best for painting exterior doors and trim, the laundry, kitchen, bathroom and other damp areas. They are more moisture-resistant, have a tougher finish and are easier to keep clean.

MORRIS & JAMES On the House

They cost about 20 percent more than their latex counterparts. Unfortunately, most do-it-yourselfers shy away from oil-based products because of their odor and because many are required for cleanup. Regardless of the paint you choose, the tools you use can mean a better-looking job effort.

The elements to consider when choosing a brush (whether for oil or water), the finish (smooth or textured), and the size of the brush being painted. This last will determine the size of the brush or roller to use.

When painting with oil, use a vent-thinned paint or stain. Chinese bristle brush made from natural animal hair or hog hair from China. These are more expensive and should not be used on water-based finishes. With water-based paints or stains, use a synthetic brush or roller to use.

see PAINT on page B10

Housing affordability unchanged

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
LOS ANGELES (March 8) - After 22 consecutive months of year-to-year declines, housing affordability in California was unchanged at 34 percent in January compared to January 2000, the California Association of Realtors reported today.

Nationwide, affordability was 57 percent in January, up from 54 percent in January 2000.

C.A.R.'s monthly housing affordability index measures the percentage of households that can afford to purchase a median-priced home in

California. C.A.R. also reports housing affordability indexes for regions within the state. The index is the most fundamental measure of housing well-being in the state.

At 10 percent, San Francisco remained the least affordable county in the state, followed by San Mateo at 13 percent, Contra Costa at 14 percent and Marin at 15 percent.

For the San Francisco Bay Area region, affordability was 18 percent. In Southern California, San Diego County was the least affordable at 25 percent.

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Alice McLeish (510) 527-2700 x35

PINOLE. 827 Betty Ave.....\$299,000
Excellent, very spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath custom home. 2 master suites. Garage conversion. Split level. All the amenities.
Open Sunday 2-4
Diane Mintz (510) 527-2700 x28

KENSINGTON. 22 Camelot Ct.....\$815,000
Stunning contemporary on quiet court. Bay and Mt. Tam views. Dramatic architecture and huge deck allows for expansive entertaining. 3+ br, 2.5 ba, family room, dining room with built-ins. Two-car garage, private patio and garden. Level-in. Move-in condition.
Open Sunday 2-4
Chris Krasitz (510) 559-2914

RICH. ANNEX. 2524 San Mateo,\$299,000
Very spacious, glowing home in the best Annex location. Two bedrooms, one bath, sits up off street for privacy. Very sunny, very charming.
Open Sunday 2-4
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EL CERRITO. 534 Norvell.....\$379,000
Extraordinary use of space and many special features makes this a truly unique home. Two bedroom, two bath split level with integrated landscaping, gourmet kitchen, office with separate entrance, deck along side and back, close to BART and shopping.
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\$89,000 0 Burr. Zoned multi-form lots.
Super View! Established neighborhood with homes on both sides. Large lot approx. 8500 sq. ft. on up slope. Near Bishop O'Dowd High School. Donnaluci Williams (510) 814-4826

\$106,000 325 Lenox Ave. #105. Studio unit,
freshly painted, and new carpets.
Afternoon sun. Call to 1779
included. **PENDING**
right in! Parking Elaine Mulin (510) 814-4821

\$139,000 1026 Pine St. Open Sat & Sun 12-4.
Charming Victorian Cottage in West Oakland! Needs lots of work but much is original. Main floor has 2 bedrooms. Upstairs has 3 additional rooms. One bath. Large basement. Kathy Hirsch (510) 814-4706.

\$185,000 1122 Wood St. Victorian cottage in
up and coming neighborhood. Three bedrooms, formal dining room and basement. **PENDING**
Call: (510) 814-4706

\$239,000 1779 Chase St. damaged house - no roof. Call me on very large lot. **PENDING
Call: (510) 814-4706**

\$349,500 2501 23rd Ave. units total 4 units. 1 bedroom units in East Oakland. Front house for owner/occupant. Pie shaped lot. Kathy Hirsch (510) 814-4706.

\$625,000 6700 Liggett Dr
Three bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, large lot, random plank hardwood floors, deck. Attached 2-car garage. Call: Russ & Linda G. (510) 814-4706

\$939,000 6835 Glenwood Drive
Fabulous contemporary dramatic architecture throughout. Formal dining room, formal entry, formal dining room, formal kitchen, master suite with private deck. Wine cellar. Prad. Ketterer (510) 814-4706

\$275,000 2523 Galleon Dr.
Single level home. Spacious. Security system. Call: Russ & Linda G. (510) 814-4706

\$408,000 14946 FJORD ST.
Development opportunity. room living room with custom fireplace. Call: Russ & Linda G. (510) 814-4706

\$127,000 1571 W. 14th
Ranch style home. Hardwood floors. Call: Russ & Linda G. (510) 814-4706

\$412,000 286 Juniper Court
SUN 2-4:30. Call: Russ & Linda G. (510) 814-4706

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~ Piedmont - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m. ~



156 Dracena Avenue New Listing \$1,895,000
This grand home is located just steps from Dracena Park and blocks from schools and transportation. 6+BR/5BA including master w/ fireplace & views. Mindy Scott



350 Mountain Ave. New Listing \$1,350,000
Enjoy the glamorous pool of this fabulous Monterey Colonial home w/hardwood floors & wood windows, gourmet kitchen. 4BR upstairs. View! Anian Pettit Tunney

~ Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m. ~

101 Beechwood Drive New Listing \$2,349,000
Elegant architecture accents this romantic 5BR, 3 +BA Tuscan Villa in Claremont Pines. Designed & built by Mark Becker. Exceptional private gardens. Sandra Vogl



7105 Marlborough Terr. New Listing \$1,495,000
OPEN 1-5. Exquisite new home w/fabulous design details & finishes. Gourmet kitchen/family room. 4BR/3.5BA + library & luxurious master suite. Views. Sherry Benninger
1225 Grand View Drive \$1,195,000
Southwestern contemporary w/panoramic Bay views. Built in 1999 with over 3000 sq. ft. 3BR/2.5BA. Artistic finish details. John Karnay



6037 Fairlane Drive New Listing \$895,000
Wonderful newer construction with hill & SF Bay views. 5BR/3BA w/approx. 3500 sq. ft. Cook's kitchen/family room with fireplace. Katie S. Harmon

1838 Grand View Dr. New Listing \$875,000
Sensational townhome offering sparkling Bay views, decks for entertaining, an elevator & 3-car garage. The gourmet kitchen will inspire all! Many upgrades. Susanne Paul
6838 Charing Cross Road \$825,000
Fabulous 3BR/3.5BA contemporary w/sparkling Bay views & many loft-like features. High ceilings, industrial windows, stainless appliances & expansive decks. Cherie Curliano

31 Blair Avenue New Listing \$507,000
Delightful and stylish split level Craftsman close to Dracena Park. Fabulous gourmet kitchen, spacious formal rooms w/hardwood floors throughout. 2BR/1BA. Charming flagstone garden. Connie Rogers

132 Moraga Avenue New Listing \$499,000
Conveniently located close to Piedmont Ave. w/3BR/2BA including a master suite. Updated kitchen, formal dining room & views. Sheila Gallagher

70 Pine Hills Court New Listing \$675,000
Exquisite contemporary on a private Montclair cul-de-sac. Expansive views of Mt. Diablo from living room. 3BR/3BA. City views, expansive decking. Gorgeous! Adam Betta

5500 Estates Drive New Listing \$589,000
Cheerful & sunny Upper Rockridge home on a private site. Pleasant front patio opens out from kitchen. Many upgrades. 6BR/3BA. Erika Celestre



550 Jean Street New Listing \$449,000
A great home in desirable Rose Garden neighborhood. 3BR/1BA all on one level. Living room w/fireplace, formal dining room & eat-in kitchen w/deck access. Michelle Winchester

1555 Lakeside Drive # 171 \$375,000
Dramatic penthouse-like condo w/breathtaking views on the 17th floor. Unique 12 ft. ceilings & high-end upgrades throughout. Lake front location. Ed Kuo

320 Caldecott Lane New Listing \$349,000
Pristine 2BR/2BA "Montclair" model at The Parkwoods. Upgraded kitchen cabinets, patio adjacent to an open air atrium. Pool & 2 parking spaces. Debra J. Dryden

2438 Jefferson Ave., Berkeley \$399,500
OPEN 2:30-5. Vintage "Arts & Crafts" w/stunning wainscoting, built-ins & high coved ceilings. Remodeled kitchen & formal dining room. 2BR = office/den. Chris Cohn

~ Piedmont, Oakland & Berkeley - By Appointment ~

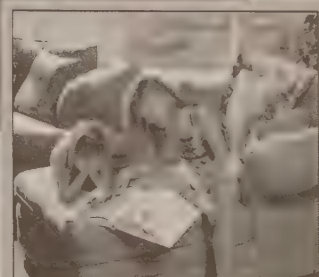
LaSalle Estates \$3,400,000
Enjoy spectacular sunsets & commanding views of the Bay, bridges & SF from this masterpiece. John Karnay
Estate Property \$1,195,000
Piedmont side of Montclair estate with commanding views. 5BR/4BA pool & studio. Elizabeth Dickson

7085 Exeter Dr. New Listing \$799,000
OPEN 1:30-4:30. Stylish contemporary w/lots of glass. Hardwood, stone & tile floors, 2BR/2.5BA + master suite. Artist studio/den, office w/separate entry & DSL. Bettina Balestrieri
1077 Ardmore Ave. New Listing \$699,000
Classic Crocker Highlands home lovingly maintained by one owner for almost 30 years. Spacious public rooms & partial views. 4BR/2+BA. Mavis Delacroix

Income Property New Listing \$549,500
Alameda. Excellent 4 unit apartment. Good income potential. Building very clean & attractive. Ed Kuo
Piedmont Traditional New Listing \$535,000
Beautifully remodeled bungalow on a huge lot. Extra space at every turn. 2+BR/1+BA. Mindy Scott

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Heritage Ranch
Manteca
1813 - 3112 sq.ft.
From the mid \$200,000's
(925) 824-8333

Grand Opening!

Grand Opening!

Paint

FROM PAGE B8

made of man-made synthetic bristles such as nylon, polyester or a combination.

If you're painting a large, flat surface such as a flush door, cabinets, woodwork, beams, fences, gutters, stair steps and shelves, a 3-inch brush is best. Use a 4-inch brush for even larger flat areas such as siding, walls, ceilings, paneling, floors and fences.

When painting windows and trim and shutters, use a 1- to 2-inch trim brush. There are two types. One has bristles cut straight across and the other out at a slight angle to the ferrule.

The sharper-pointed edge of the angular sash brush allows precise trimming or fine-line work. Also, the brush handle is long for pencil-grip control.

Roller covers are used when there is a need to spread much paint over a large area. Though the standard roller cover is 9 inches wide, they are available in various widths. When roller shopping, you will notice a difference in the length of the nap or fibers.

Some roller covers have a short, smooth surface while others have a

long, bushy look. A roller with short nap is designed for smooth surfaces whereas long nap is best for rough or textured ones.

Aside from the size and the length of the nap, fabric type determines which roller cover is best to use. As with paint brushes, a roller cover can be made of natural material such as mohair or man-made polyester.

Mohair, woven to prevent shedding, works especially well when used with polyurethane, oil-base enamels and solvent-thinned paints and stains.

A word to the wise — use a quality roller frame. They have a compression-type cage, also called a "bird cage." Compression frames are convenient because they grip the cover securely, yet covers can be removed quickly and easily. The roller handle should be "beefy" and have a threaded end to accommodate an extension pole for painting walls, floors and ceilings.

Formed paint sponges and fabric-covered paint pads have become popular in the last few years. We have found the foam sponges to work exceptionally well for minor flat wall touchup or for small craft projects. We don't recommend them for serious painting jobs where quality is a concern. The same goes for fabric-

covered paint pads. They are well-suited for applying stain and/or varnish to smooth surfaces such as a deck or hardwood floor, but are not especially effective for applying paint.

Save time and wear and tear cleaning up paint-covered brushes and rollers by wrapping the brush or roller cover in plastic food wrap and placing it in the refrigerator. Remove

the brush or roller the next morning, allow it to get to room temperature, and continue where you left off.

Pittsburg contractors Morris and James O. Carey can be heard Sat-

urday mornings on KATV. Write the Carey Brothers, associated Press, 55 Rockledge, New York, NY 10604. bro@onthehouse.com

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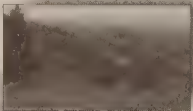


New Listing
1834 Delaware, Berk
\$649,000
Open Sun 3/25 2-4pm

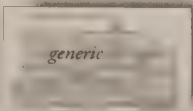


New Listing
1260 Trastle Glen Rd., Oak
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Open Sunday 3/25
1773 Indian Way, Oak,
3/2. Updated \$499,000



New Lot Listing!
1275 Drury Rd., Oak \$500,000
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New Listing!
7697 Stockton, EC \$459,000
Open Sun 3/25 2-4:30pm



New Listing
7300 Pomona Ct., EC \$399,000
Open Sun 3/25 2-4pm



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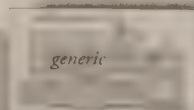
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Oak, 5/4 Fab craftsman w/ sep. cottage \$1,150,000
Oak, 3B/2B \$895,000
Rich, 4+1/2 Immaculate & bright spaces \$540,000

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Berkeley, 1606 Tyler, 4 units \$686,000
Berkeley, 1539 Prince, 4 units \$475,000
Berkeley, 1430 Spruce, Triplex \$499,000



New Listing!
4134 Vale Ave., Oak \$325,000
Open Sun 3/25 2-4:30pm



New Listing!
1115 Key Route Blvd., Albany
\$393,000
Open Sun 3/25 2-5pm

publish 3/23

CASTLE ROCK REALTY

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OF HOMES & APARTMENTS

528-9292

966 SAN PABLO AVE, ALBANY

Open Sunday 2 - 5 6066 Romany Road, Oak

New
Listing!

Gracious Traditional in Upper Rockridge



This exquisitely remodeled 5 bedroom, 2 bath by gardens is located on a quiet street. The stunning chef's kitchen, full floor marble throughout make this a superb refuge from today's stress.

Offered at \$949,000

RITCHIEY
REAL ESTATE
&
INVESTMENTS
527-3060

Deborah Ritchey

(510) 527-3060 (Bus.)

(510) 236-6440 (Res.)

Gallagher & Lindsay

521-8181

OAKLAND

SAN LEANDRO

3300 BONA. CUTE SPLIT LEVEL BUNGALOW PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS. Mediterranean home in nice neighborhood. Fireplace in living room, built-in hutch in dining room, partial basement, 2 bedrooms. Evelyn Kennedy 748-1120.

1237 E. 21st ST. - COTTAGE HOME. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, with a plus room. Kathy Wess, 746-1128

6467 BUENA VENTURA AVE.-BAY VIEW LOT ABOVE MILLS COLLEGE. With permits & plans. Mary Ann, 568-2040 or Sharon, 523-9421

PANORAMIC WAY. 2 LOTS Approx. 2,500 sq. ft. each, located in the Oakland Hills above UC Berkeley. Great view of San Francisco Bay Area. Priced at \$45,000. Kathy Ghiselli, 510 522-6425.

OPEN SATURDAY 2-4. 834 MEDIAN YOURSELF A FAVOR! Stop wasting time fixing up your house & sell it where it's been done beautifully. This 2 bedroom, 1 bath is the heart of a friendly family. Beautiful ceramic kitchen with granite new appliances, tiled bath, hardwood large back yard. Kathy Ghiselli, 522-6425

CASTRO VALLEY

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4. 1830 HILLS ATTENTION CONTRACTORS! This bedroom, 2 bath home is in setting. Lot is large enough for possibilities. For further information Kathy Ghiselli, 522-6425.

We speak Mandarin, Cantonese and English

我們講國語、粵語、英語

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NEW PIEDMONT PINES LISTING

Open Sunday • March 25 • 2-4:30 pm



25 Mall Court, Oakland

Originally designed by architect Carl Groh, this dramatic contemporary at the end of a cul-de-sac offers maximum privacy

- 3 bedrooms/3 baths
- Secluded master suite with walk-in closet
- Nursery or den & plus room
- Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors
- Level out to deck with hot tub
- Remodeled kitchen w/granite counter

Offered at \$679,000



Wendy Gardner

Associate Broker

Bus: (510) 339-6460 ext. 303

Visit us at www.pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION

CROCKER HIGHLANDS JEWEL

Open Sunday • March 25 • 2-4:30 pm



1001 Portal Avenue, Oakland

This charming 2BD/1BA home is located on a quiet street on Crocker Highlands. Enjoy outdoor entertaining on the rear patio or a warm evening in front of the fireplace in this distinctive home with many fine architectural features.

Offered at \$529,000



Tom Anthony

Associate Broker

Bus: (510) 834-2300

Visit us at www.pacunion.com

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Montclair

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Montclair Better Homes Realty

510-339-8400 / 510-339-4000

FIND OUR LISTINGS ON THE INTERNET <http://www.bhram.com>

Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm

Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm

Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm

Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm

BREATHTAKING.....\$1,175,000
Can only describe this million dollar view of S.F. Bay & Bridges. This spacious traditional has 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, beautiful hardwood floors and a huge rumpus room & wet bar for entertaining. 431 Pacific Avenue Martha Shin 510-339-8400

WOODED HIDEAWAY!.....\$659,000
This bright, split-level Montclair home is tucked away with beautiful wooded views. Hdwd flrs, charming living room w/ fireplace, lg. kitchen w/ generous cabinet space & track lighting, and a large private level backyard. Perfect for outdoor entertaining. Can all be yours! 5617 Moraga Avenue Nahid Nassiri 510-287-5770

ONE OF THE BEST MONTCLAIR LOCATIONS.....\$549,000
This contemporary, shows beautifully and offers a brand new driveway, attached garage w/ interior access, new carpet, new interior & exterior paint, a large eat-in kitchen w/ new floors and counter tops, and a wonderful front deck/patio combo, set back from the street that would be great for gardening. 6908 Ridgewood Drive Nahid Nassiri 510-287-5770

SUNSET OVER THE BAY.....\$359,000
Beautifully remodeled and comfortable California home, Bay & Mt. Tam views, sprawling park-like garden, 2 BR + office + extra room, 1 BA, quiet street in great neighborhood. 7620 Sterling Drive Joe Ashton 510-339-4000

GORGEOUS EMERYVILLE WATERGATE CONDO.....\$305,000
A one-of-a-kind 1 bedroom, 1 bath, approximately 800 sq. ft. condo. Remodeled throughout, hardwood floors, expanded bathroom, pool. A must see! Open Sat & Sun 12-3. 5 Commodore Dr. #213, Emeryville Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

By Appointment

CLASSIC TUDOR.....\$950,000
Lovely tudor completely restored to its original beauty. Large entryway & grand staircase, hdwd flrs, spacious 3+ bdrms, 3 baths, completely remodeled kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances & quality craftsmanship. Beautiful garden + patio deck. 1053 Sunnyhills Martha Shin 510-339-8400

PIEDMONT-CHARMING COLONIAL.....\$689,000
Central Piedmont - Walk to all 3 schools. All the architectural details intact, formal DR, LR w/ fireplace and French doors to deck. Sunny, newer kitchen w/ breakfast area. Staged & beautiful! Bonus area. 1827 Oakland Ave., Piedmont Charlene Claybaugh 510-339-8400

INCREDIBLE REMODELLING DONE.....\$699,000
...on this 4 BR, 2 bath mediterranean in Crocker Highlands. Dramatic entryway, a sunken living room with a bay window. Beautiful inlaid floors. 1000 Mandana Noni Robinson 510-339-8400

NEW LISTING!.....\$599,000
5 bedroom, 3 bath ranch home has sweeping view of bay, 3 bridges and San Francisco. Spacious 2600 sq. ft. floor plan. Front landscaped, backyard has deck and spa. Don't miss this one! 8101 Coach Drive Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN IN-LAW SUITE?.....\$549,000
Spacious home in fabulous location. Large in-law or teen suite plus great hardwood floors, sky lights, family room! Open Sunday 2506 Leimert Blvd Patricia Bennett 510-339-8400

NEW LISTING!.....\$529,000
Fabulous Montclair traditional with four bedrooms, three baths, beautiful hardwood floors, family room, large new decks, freshly painted exterior, move-in condition, and a two-car garage. 6638 Saroni Drive Martha Shin 510-339-8400

PIEDMONT SIDE OF MONTCLAIR.....\$489,000
Wonderful home, So. Bay view, M entry, dining area, LR w/ fireplace and access to sunny deck. Cul-de-sac, 1 BR + BA downstairs, ideal for guest, home office, garden. 6792 Sims Drive Charlene Claybaugh 510-339-8400

COZY CRAFTSMAN MINI-ESTATE.....\$445,000
Tree-lined street in the heart of San Leandro's Broadmoor neighborhood. Original 2/1 with 1/1 family room addition, detached 24x36 garage - all on 10,000 sq.ft. lot. Delightful! 440 Beverly Avenue, San Leandro Earle Shenk 510-339-4000

GLENVIEW BUNGALOW.....\$429,000
Charming fixer - great start for first time buyers. Four bedrooms, three baths, formal dining room, sunny kitchen with access to patio and yard. Attached tandem garage plus detached one-car garage. Martha Shin 510-339-8400

NEW ON MARKET!.....\$225,000
Completely renovated with gorgeous kitchen, fireplace, hardwood floors, new carpet, new bath, family room. This one's special! Maria Sinclair 510-339-8400

Our offices offer RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES • contact Anna Jensen for further information • (510) 339-4000

Open Sunday

New Listing!



PIEDMONT.....\$2,450,000
1 SANDRINGHAM RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Stately English Tudor, rich architectural detail, renovated throughout. 6+ bd, 5+ ba and an au pair suite over the 3-car garage. The nearly half acre site includes lush gardens and a swimming pool. Stunning! Georgia Cornell x325

MONTCLAIR.....\$1,295,000
6415 THORNDALE DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Enjoy stunning 4-bridge Bay views from this unique, 3BD/3BA architect designed home. Features include shower/steam room, sauna, wave pool, wine cellar, air conditioning, and much more. Ann Nichols x319

ROCKRIDGE (UPPER).....\$1,285,000
6207 MATHIEU AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Lovely four-year-old home in prestigious Claremont Pines area of Upper Rockridge. 4BD/3.5BA, MBR suite, gourmet kitchen/family room, slate decks, views. Great value! Dee Knowland x318

CLAREMONT HILLS.....\$1,269,000
1035 AMITO AVE. (Open 2-4:30) Leonard Perillo presents this exciting new Mediterranean situated in the beautiful Claremont Hills. Bay & canyon views. 4BD/4BA, FDR, 4711m room, master suite & multi-level decks. Country/city living. Dee Knowland x318

New Listing!
ORINDA.....\$1,125,000
42 ARDILLA RD (Open 2-4:30) Rare William Penn Mott Spanish hacienda built in 1936... gorgeous 3/4 acre lot. 3BD/2.5BA. Includes master suite. Living room & fireplace nook, dining room & family room. Separate studio set a short distance from main house. Patricia Scott Winslow x315

MONTCLAIR.....\$725,000
1823 DRAKE DR. (Open 2-4:30) Spacious 1960's contemporary conveniently located close to village. Enjoy 3000+/- sq. ft. with expansive Bay views and level yard. 5BD/3.5BA. Living room with vaulted ceilings & fireplace. Family room with fireplace and office built-ins. Kathy Flynn x317

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Open Sunday

Open Sunday

By Appointment

MONTCLAIR.....\$689,000
6273 RUTHLAND RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Newer construction Tudor home. Four bedrooms, including large master suite, three and a half baths, elevator and Intercom system. Great Montclair location. Ashley Wilcox O'Neill x368

New Listing!
PIEDMONT PINES.....\$679,000
25 MALL CT. (Open 2-4:30) Dramatic 3+ BD/3BA contemporary, located at the end of a cul-de-sac, offers maximum privacy. Fabulous master suite w/fireplace. Flexible floor plan. Private wooded setting. Deck & hot tub. Wendy Gardner x303

New Listing!
MONTCLAIR.....\$569,950
6070 COLTON BLVD. (Open 2-4:30) Featuring four bedrooms and three full baths, this sleek, modern home recalls the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Hand-carved entry door, clear redwood paneling, gallery style lighting, & butted glass corners add distinctive architectural flair. Dick Cohen x308

CROCKER HIGHLAND.....\$529,000
1001 PORTAL AVE. (Open 2-4:30) Charming 2BD/1BA home, located on a quiet street. Enjoy outdoor entertaining on the rear patio or an evening in front of the fireplace. Distinctive home with many fine architectural details. Jeffrey Himmel x307

REDWOOD HEIGHTS.....\$439,000
3387 JORDAN RD. (Open 2-4:30) Immaculate all-level ranch located across from wooded park. 3 spacious bedrooms, including master suite. Level rear yard & patio courtyard. Diane Earl McCan x352

MONTCLAIR.....\$349,000
6323 VALLEY VIEW (Open 2-4:30) New price on lovely, light filled upslope vintage home. Beautiful canyon views. 2 BD/3BA plus au pair w/ separate entrance. Level outdoor space & detached garage. Joan E. Hause x358

HADDON HILL.....\$349,000
258 ATHOL (Open 2-4:30) 3+BD/1+BA. Very charming. Lots of architectural details. Built-ins. Hdwd floors. Yard. Nancy Noman x373

LAUREL DISTRICT.....\$329,000
4503 TOMPKINS AVE. NEW LISTING!
(Open 2-4:30) Charming Laurel District bungalow with 2 bedrooms/2 baths and a "plus" room for office or guests. Large yard, open floorplan, great light! Vicki Woodhead x334

ROSE GARDEN.....\$289,000
670 VERNON ST. #206 (Open 2-4:30) Beautiful views & immaculate condition are the elements that combine to create a tranquil lifestyle. 1+BD/1BA, den w/fireplace, & deck. Donna Costella x355

OAKLAND.....\$235,000
6009 OUTLOOK (Open 2-4:30) Fixer-upper in great location. Spanish-style bungalow. 2BD/1+BA. Basement plus rooms. Garage. Sunny back yard. Close to Mills College. Donna DeBardi x345

LAKE MERRITT.....\$895,000
3BD/3BA penthouse features walls of glass and an excellent floor plan. Panoramic views of Lake Merritt and City of Oakland from almost every room. Full service building with 24-hour doorman, heated pool, fitness center and 2-car parking. Anne Peste x371

PIEDMONT SIDE OF MONTCLAIR
Secluded setting. Spacious 4 bedroom/3.5 baths. Formal dining room. Large family room with fireplace. Study. In-law quarters with separate entrance. Pool surrounded by landscaped garden...and much more! Adriana Giacomelli x350

By Appointment



OAKLAND.....\$269,500
Charming 1BD custom cottage style home, remodeled and upgraded with great attention to detail and style. Lovely landscaped yards. Diane Earl McCan x352

OAKLAND.....\$150,000
STEINMETZ LOT Downslope SF view lot. Over 1/3 acre. Private with mature oaks. Patricia Scott x315

Coming Soon
ROCKRIDGE (UPPER).....\$749,000
Terrific eight year old Upper Rockridge home. 3 bedrooms/2.5 baths with spacious bonus room. Beautiful terraced garden leading to level yard. Great location! Great price! Move-in condition! Dee Knowland x318

MONTCLAIR
Quiet south facing contemporary. 3BD/2.5BA. Family room off kitchen with access to sunny deck. Plantation shutters. 2-car garage. Fireplace in living room. Formal dining area. Wendy Gardner x303

MILLS COLLEGE
Charming. 1930's era character. 2 bedroom/1 bath. Attached garage. Downstairs bonus/laundry room. Beautiful gardens with deck and greenhouse. Joan E. Hause x358

PIEDMONT.....\$2,195,000
(Open 2-4:30) Live in your own 5+BD/4+BA chalet with filtered Bay views, pool, spa, & sauna. Custom built and maintained by original owners, this rare property abounds with redwoods, oaks & pines. Charlotte Boyle x370

View...
LAKE MERRITT.....\$895,000
3BD/3BA penthouse features walls of glass and an excellent floor plan. Panoramic views of Lake Merritt and City of Oakland from almost every room. Full service building with 24-hour doorman, heated pool, fitness center and 2-car parking. Anne Peste x371

PIEDMONT SIDE OF MONTCLAIR
Secluded setting. Spacious 4 bedroom/3.5 baths. Formal dining room. Large family room with fireplace. Study. In-law quarters with separate entrance. Pool surrounded by landscaped garden...and much more! Adriana Giacomelli x350

Your San Francisco Bay Area Real Estate Resource

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WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA 1627 Alameda Av - \$805,000 3245 Bayo Vista Av - \$500,000 9 Bordwell Ct - \$425,000 1233 Broadway - \$285,500 2700 Clay St - \$350,000 1401 Cottage St - \$250,000 2515 Crist St - \$365,000 1312 Hansen Av - \$527,000 502 Holly Oak Ln - \$470,000 913 Independence B44 - \$415,000 27 Parfait Ln - \$450,000 1149 Straub Wy - \$420,000	1157 Oxford St - \$792,500 1942 Russell St - \$550,000 651 The Alameda - \$778,000 1825 Vine St #1 - \$265,000	EL CERRITO 711 Norvell St - \$560,000 5326 Potrero Av - \$196,000	EL SOBRANTE 894 Appian Knoll Ct - \$235,000 5152 Hilltop Dr - \$180,000 5527 Sobrante Av - \$125,000	EMERYVILLE 3 Captain Dr #D40 - \$186,000 6 Captain Dr #E42 - \$223,500 6363 Christie Av #180 - \$275,000	KENSINGTON 256 Stanford Av - \$925,000	OAKLAND 2159 108th Av - \$245,500 2820 22nd Av - \$240,000 2504 23rd Av - \$199,000 1089 54th St - \$257,000 1531 57th Av - \$171,500 581 59th St - \$375,000 1233 61st Av - \$273,500 685 62nd St - \$295,000 1015 70th Av - \$157,500 1292 78th Av - \$187,000 2505 79th Av - \$315,000 1229 82nd Av - \$167,000	1747 83rd Av - \$140,000 2457 83rd Av - \$270,000 1643 88th Av - \$182,000 4620 Benevides Av - \$310,000 9951 Bernhardt Dr - \$175,000 9832 C St - \$165,000 280 Caldecott Ln #219 - \$255,000 6153 Castle Dr - \$580,000 6 Cortez Ct - \$526,000 1932 East 17th St - \$425,000 1837 East 19th St - \$285,000 2260 East 20th St - \$220,000 5537 Edgerly St - \$155,000 801 Franklin St - \$270,000 4225 Harbor View Av - \$610,000 5924 Harmon Av - \$145,000 6128 Harmon Av - \$138,000 2602 Highland Av - \$208,000 375 Jayne Av #303 - \$260,000 3619 Kansas St - \$190,000
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Please see SALES, Page B20

Open Sunday 2-4:30

New Listing!



156 Dracena Avenue, Piedmont
This grand home is located just a few steps from Dracena Park and blocks from schools and transportation. Six + bedrooms and five baths including master with fireplace and views. Offered at \$1,895,000
Mindy Scott
Office: 339.0400/215 **The GRUBB Co.**
Residence: 655.2460
GRUBBCO.COM

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



Mini Village - Found Paradise
1284 61st Street, Emeryville

Rare Offering! Follow the pathway through this magical village of 4 brown shingles. They house a total of 6 units, surrounded by greenery. Walking distance to all the popular Piedmont Ave. amenities. No Sunday open house. Call your favorite Real Estate Professional to tour!

\$1,200,000

Open Sunday

New Listing Berkeley/Northside condo 2348 Hilgard Ave., 2 Bedroom, close to everything! Call Diana 510.486.1440

\$325,000

Still Available Rockridge: 5945 Chabot Crest, 3++Bedroom, 2 bath with room to grow! Call Warwick 510.981.1805

\$595,000

diana
Diana Yonkouski
Real Estate Broker
510-486-1440
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BAY AREA PROPERTIES

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Real Estate Advertising Deadlines

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Copy & Artwork: **TUESDAY, 12 Noon** Open Home Guide: **WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon**

Coming Soon in Rockridge



6134 Harwood Avenue

A wonderful study in quiet reserve & understated distinction, surrounded by a lovely one-quarter acre of private grounds

It is a very short stroll up a very sunny street From College Avenue, its shops and the BART station To the solitude of this spacious two storied traditional home And (including an in-law unit) its 5 bedrooms & 4 1/2 baths Amidst mature plantings and tall majestic trees.

Offered at \$995,000

BOB NELSON
510.547.6800

ROCKRIDGE REALTY

SP Security Pacific Real Estate Brokerage

3223 Blume Drive, Richmond
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PINOLE

ONE LEVEL TRADITIONAL HOME
Great floor plan 4 br 2 ba almost 1800 sq. ft., approx 7,225 sq. ft. lot. Central heat and AC, 2 car attached garage, family rm and dining room, great yard #00008607 Ed Messner (510) 662-8494

PINOLE STATION/WONDERFUL NEIGHBORHOOD
3br 2.5ba w/great family room, formal dining room, plantation shutters custom fans and interior decor, large lot w/off street parking (16,770 sq. ft.) bonus closet in master bedroom, this home is impeccable #01008065 Gary Toretta (510) 662-8519

TARA HILLS

MOVE-IN CONDITION/GREAT HOUSE & LOT
3BR 1BA 2759 CORNELIUS (OPEN SUN 2-4) Large lot w/IRV garden dog run, lovely backyard with lawn and covered concrete patio - great storage shed, all new dual pane windows, newer paint, newer neutral carpet, & linoleum, separate laundry area, #01008723 www.GarShen.com (510) 662-8469

OAKLAND

DRAMATIC LIVE/WORK LOFT
309 4th St., #119 at Jack London Square! 20' high ceilings, custom kitchen, skylites, separate bedroom/office, security parking, and private patio w/hot tub. Minutes to freeway, BART and airport. #01006399 Jamie Lake (510) 662-8478

RICHMOND NORTH AND EAST



NEW LISTING/ADORABLE MACGREGOR
3br 1.5ba 613 40th St., (Open Sun 2-4) formal dining rm, refinished hardwood floors, sunny updated kitchen, living rm w/fireplace, fresh interior & exterior paint 2 car garage & RV parking www.CarlaDellaZoppa.com (510) 662-8556


NEAR CLINTON HILL
Fabulous 3br 2ba New carpet, fireplace, formal dining rm, eat-in kitchen master suite, garage, great backyard. #01003141 Scott Rebeck (510) 662-8473

RARE FIND OVER 2200 SQ. FT.
3BR 3 BA Huge master suite & family rm, Garage converted for extra living space, updated kitchen extra long driveway for RV/boat, plus storage shed. Huge deck off family room, #07005789 Marilyn Earhart (510) 662-8468

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1714 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707




BERKELEY. 1585 A Arch. Open Sun. 2-4 p.m.
Most coveted condominium in fabulous location - minutes to U.C. and the Gourmet Ghetto. Built in 1924 with all the requisite details - pretty hardwood floors, terrific floorplan. Living room, formal dining remodeled kitchen, 1/4 bath. Upstairs 2 bedrooms - one open study. Full bath. Wonderful garden outlooks. Virtual tour: www.berkhill.com

NANCY MUELLER • 524-9888 x20 **\$425,000**



EL CERRITO. 6859 Cutting Blvd. Open Sun. 2-4 p.m.
Eminently stylish El Cerrito 3 bedroom home filled with sunlight. Lge. designer kitchen and baths. Hardwood floors, fireplace, Bay and hill views. Glass door out to garden with observation deck with San Francisco Golden Gate views. Perfect for entertaining. Two-car garage. Near BART

TERESE ASHMAN • 524-9888 x11 **\$395,000**



BERKELEY. 734 Cragmont Ave. Open Sun. 1-5 p.m.
Enjoy three-bridge views from this lovely Berkeley hills Mediterranean. Enormous terraced garden; private front courtyard. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, spacious family room with wood-burning stove. Virtual tour: www.berkhill.com

ARLENE BAXTER • 524-9888 x19 **\$645,000**

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LENDER	30YR CONVENTIONAL RATE+POINTS(APR)	30YR JUMBO RATE+POINTS(APR)	7/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	5/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	3/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	Additional Programs
Cal Fed Lending 925-256-9667	6.875+.991(7.03) 7+.551(7.11)	7.25+1(7.36) 7.375+.259(7.41)	6.875+.661(7.71) 7+.244(7.2)	6.75+.346(7.14) 6.875+.0(7.16)	6.375+.63(7.13) 6.625+.0(7.15)	Ask about our FHA and CAL STRS Loan Program, \$3,000 first time home buyer grant, Free pre-qualification. For different pricing options call (925)-256-9667.
CMG Mortgage Inc. 800-958-5339	6.625+1.5(6.88) 6.875+.5(7.04) 7.0+0(7.12)	6.875+1.5(7.09) 7.125+.75(7.26) 7.375+0(7.44)	6.375+.5(6.54) 6.625+0(6.74)	6.5+.5(6.66) 6.75+0(6.87)	6+1.25(6.23) 6.5+.5(6.66) 6.75+0(6.87)	Aggressive financing for people with less than perfect credit. Refinances, Pre-qualifications, Second mortgages. Call Mike 7 days a week. Open Saturdays and Sundays. 30yr Jumbo rate was quoted wrong on 2/20/01 AND 2/27/01.
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148	6375+2.25(6.64)	6.875+2.125(7.11)	NA	NA	NA	Direct lender, 40 years experience. All types of borrowers. Fixed and ARM mortgages.
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626	6.875+0(6.99)	7.375+0(7.50)	6.875+0(6.99)	6.75+0(6.87)	6.375+0(6.49)	Credit problems, bankrupt, difficult loans our specialty. All government loans. 100% loans, credit lines, construction. 20 years of service. Appointments anytime! 1-800-837-LOAN.

Information is current as of March 20, 2001. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$275,000; jumbo loans are in excess of \$275,000. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homebuyers to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. MI—mortgage insurance. NA—not available. NA—rate not quoted. Lenders, to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-ONS-8625. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 2001 Consumer News Systems

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CONSUMER ONLINE INFORMATION

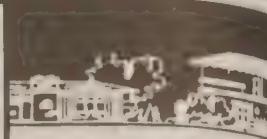
To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator, and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com

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CALL 748-1688 or FAX 748-1679
*unless otherwise indicated



ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
15 Ennis West Jacobs 510-814-4710, Harbor Bay Realty	3 - BD/3BA	2-4	\$1,100,000
1218 Sherman Nancy Gordon 510-814-4815, Harbor Bay Realty	4BD/3BA	2-4	\$885,000
906 Grand St. Michael Stubbaker, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1129	4BA/2 - BA	2-4	\$275,000
32 Kilkenny Ringo Liu 510-814-4848, Harbor Bay Realty	4BD/3BA	2-4	\$849,000
18 Oyster Shoals Open Sat. & Sun. Suzi Hiltzberger & Dennis Kerfe, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1114, 510-748-1132	5BA/3BA	2-4	\$840,000
1285 Weber Jane Friedrich 510-814-4810, Harbor Bay Realty	4BD/2BA	2-4	\$689,000
153 Sweet Rd. Shirley Ellis 510-814-4705, Harbor Bay Realty	4BD/3BA	2-4	\$689,000
281 Tipperary Lorraine Ingerson 510-814-4715, Harbor Bay Realty	4BD/3BA	2-4	\$694,500
1950 Kolman Judy Jacobs 510-814-4711, Harbor Bay Realty	4BD/3BA	2-4	\$689,000
33 Lawrence OPEN SAT. & SUN, Harbor Bay Island John Bergman, Re/Max East Bay Group, 510-317-7165	4BD/3BA	2-4	\$689,000
39 Purcell OPEN SAT & SUN Steve & Nancy Brand 510-814-4823, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/2 - BA	2-4	\$675,000
640 Waterford OPEN SATURDAY ONLY Walt Jacobs 510-814-4710, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/2 - BA	2-4	\$675,000
5110 Thompson Ave Cass & Company, Cathy Schottelwe 510-521-2220	3BD/2 + BA	2-4	\$649,000
20 Anderson Rd. Fritz Hochstetler, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	4BD/3BA	2-4	\$639,000
943 Pacific Sally Radloff 510-523-2314 & Alan Gooch 510-521-2980, Kane & Associates	2BD/-BA	2-4-30	\$625,000
1514 Gibbons Dr. OPEN SAT & SUN Tom Rottelaw & Darlene Gardner, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1104, 510-748-1104	2BA/1.5BA	2-4	\$585,000
1726 Lafayette Vince San Nicholas, Alameda Realty 510-522-8385	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$550,000
306 Indian Bay Darin Vival 510-814-4824, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/2 - BA	2-4	\$529,000
36 Lawrence Rd. OPEN SAT & SUN Kella McDonald, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1177	3BA/2BA	2-4-30	\$489,000
801 Park St. John Parton, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1116	3BA/2 - BA	2-4	\$489,000
2807 Bayview Dr. OPEN SAT & SUN Bill Schmitt, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1108	3BA/2 + BA	2-4	\$489,500
612 Larchmont OPEN SAT & SUN Shirley McWilliam 510-814-4825; Sid Boring 510-814-4816, Harbor Bay Realty	4BD/2BA	2-4	\$489,000
2 Hecker Ct. Valerie Newman 510-523-7214, Kane & Associates	3BD/-BA	2-4-30	\$489,000
21 Ullster Pl. Mary Anne Fox, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$469,000
2819 Burgner Delores Olson 510-814-4875, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/2 - BA	2-4	\$469,000
321 Pyne Ln OPEN SAT & SUN Ann Bracci & Michael Stubbaker, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1107, 510-748-1129	3BA/2 - BA	2-4	\$469,000
2937 Windsor Russ Grant 510-814-4713, Harbor Bay Realty	2BD/2BA	2-4	\$459,000
1700 Cornell OPEN SAT & SUN Janice Payne 510-814-4871; Doris Payne 510-814-4846, Harbor Bay Realty	3 - BD/2BA	2-4	\$450,000
920 Broadway OPEN SAT & SUN Doris Payne 510-814-4871; Janice Payne 510-814-4846, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/1 - BA	2-4	\$450,000
229 Garfield Sat. & Sun. Mindy Hart 510-523-4746, Kane & Associates	2BD/-BA	2-4	\$449,000
602 Tem OPEN SATURDAY ONLY Donna Williams 510-814-4826, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$429,000
1537 Perry Jerry Hunsbaum 510-522-0964, Kane & Associates	3BD/-BA	2-4	\$425,000
1948 8th St. Steve Cressy 510-814-4818, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$419,000
1074 Atlantic St. Peter Fletcher, 510-521-1177, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	2BD/2BA	2-4	\$399,000
1016 Bagonia Dr. Home-Link, George Gadsby 510-748-5300	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$395,000
1115 Willow Saturday Only Concepcion 510-814-4814, Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$392,000
1719 Ninth St. Sat. & Sun. Pete Caprio & Eileen Walker, Alameda Realty 510-522-8585	3BD/1BA	2-4	\$385,000
3223 Cook Lane OPEN SATURDAY ONLY Marjorie Penney 510-814-4845, Harbor Bay Realty	2BD/1 - BA	2-4	\$379,000
801 Central Diana 510-522-8287, Bayview Real Estate	3BD/1BA	2-4	\$379,000
1734 Union St. Steven Jing, Progress Investment 510-882-8939	2BD/1BA	2-4	\$379,000
2101 Shoreline Dr. John Mckitely 510-523-6732, Kane & Associates	2BD/-BA	2-4	\$279,000

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
965 Shorepoint Ct. Shorepoint Monica Rogers 510-339-9900 La Salle Properties	2 BA/2 Ba	11-1	\$265,000
1305 Webster St. #208 Remate Kohlmann, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1160	1BA/1BA	1-2-30	\$199,500
1311 Webster St. #E213 Remate Kohlmann, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1160	1BA/1BA	2:30-4:30	\$195,000
1241 Regent St. Pat Colburn 510-965-3450, Kane & Associates	4 Units	2-4	\$-

ALBANY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1115 Key Route Blvd. - cottage w/ha. Open Sunday Red Oak (510) 280-2138, Diane	2 + BD/1BA	2-5	\$383,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
44 Domingo Mary Montali 510-652-2133 ext.132, Templeton Lavette Co.	5BD/4BA	2-4	\$795,000
2944 Dorby Bette McKee 510-652-2133 ext.145, Templeton Lavette Co.	3BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$705,000
16 Slater Lane Claremont Hills Fritsch AL, Prudential CA Realty 510-886-9538	4 + BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$689,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2814 Elita St. Elmwood Stan Hammond, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-531-7000 ext. 346	4 + BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$686,000
775 Vincente Leslie Avant 510-652-2133 ext.122, Templeton Lavette Co.	4BD/2BA	2-4	\$649,000
557 The Alameda Helen Barshi 510-652-2133 ext.124, Templeton Lavette Co.	2 + BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$649,000
1834 Delaware Open Sunday Red Oak (510) 280-2103, Marc	3BD/2.5BA	2-4	\$648,000
734 Cragmont Ave Helen Bader, Berkeley Hills R.E. (510) 524-8688 ext.18.	3BD/2BA	1-5	\$645,000
335 Panoramic Open Sunday Prudential California, Candice Economides 510-945-0200	3BD/-BA	2-4	\$599,000
1926 El Dorado Hon Eghemian 510-652-2133 ext.127, Templeton Lavette Co.	3BD/1.5BA	2-4	\$595,000
1519 Martin Luther King Held & Jerry Long 510-835-5218, Coldwell Banker	4BD/2BA	2-4	\$529,000
2327 Curtis St. - mntal - sep utc Open Sunday Red Oak, (510) 280-2114, Judy	2BD/1BA	2-4	\$479,000
1319 Talbot Ave RE/MAX (berkeleyhomes.com) Ira & Carol Series 510-528-6666	3 - BD/2BA	2-4	\$469,000
1067 Keith Ave. Prudential California, McGraw 510-945-0200	2BD/-BA	2-4	\$465,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1515 Oxford Ann Wariand 510-652-2133 ext.146, Templeton Lavette Co.	2BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$450,000
1985 A Arch Nancy Mueller, Berkeley Hills R.E. (510) 524-8888 ext.20.	2BD/1BA	2-4	\$425,000
2438 Jefferson Ave Berkeley Chris Cole, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	2BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$399,500
2700 La Concha #204 Denise William 510-969-4883, Prudential CA Realty	1BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$325,000
2308 Tenth St. Miriam Wilson 510-552-9619 La Salle Properties	2BD/1BA	2-4	\$299,000

CASTRO VALLEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
18803 Huber Kathy Gissell, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-522-6425	3BA/2BA	2-4	\$589,000

CONCORD

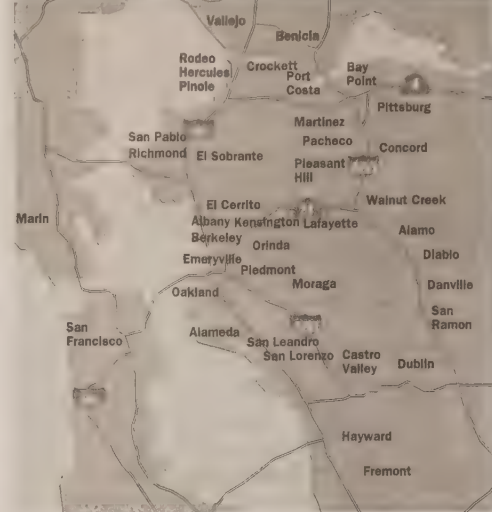
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2251 Blackfield Dr. David Graham, 525-890-2385, Prudential Call.	7BD/4BA Sun. 1-4	1-4	\$469,000

DUBLIN

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
8283 Varnac Rd. Sat. & Sun. Carol Knight, Alameda Realty 510-448-5844	4BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$385,000

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7897 Stockton Open Sunday Red Oak (510) 280-2117, Merritt	3 - BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$469,000
6889 Cutting Blvd Yvonne Anderson, Berkeley Hills R.E. (510) 524-8888 ext.11.	3BD/-BA	2-4	\$395,000
534 Norvell Open Sunday Marvin Gardens Real Estate, Merrilyn Rhodes (510) 559-2929	2BD/2BA	2-4	\$379,000
850 Lexington Evelyn Phillips (510) 334-8348, Security Pacific	2BD/-BA	2-4	\$299,960



EMERYVILLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6033 Christie Ave 3 level loft Re/Max Bay Area, Bill Graham 510-420-1963	1BD/1BA	1-4	\$429,000
1510 Park Ave. Rita Harrington, Prudential CA Realty 510-986-9465	1BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$269,000

KENSINGTON

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
22 Camelot Ct. Open Sunday Marvin Gardens Real Estate, Merrilyn Rhodes, (510) 559-2929	3BD/2.5BA	2-4	\$815,000
245 Cambridge Ave. Nancy Blom, Prudential CA Realty 510-464-1184	2BD/1BA	1-4	\$429,000
44 Ardmore Rd. Eigene Hillstead & Associates, Sheri Madden 510-524-3640	1 - BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$410,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
101 Beechwood Dr Claremont Pines Sandra Vogt, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	5BD/3 - BA	2-4-30	\$2,349,000
904 Alvarado Rd. Open Sunday Rosanne Brown 510-869-5609, Prudential California	4 - BD/-BA	2-4	\$1,495,000
7105 Mariborough Ter- race Claremont Hills Sherry Benninger, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	4BD/3 + A	2-4-30	\$1,495,000
6415 Thomdale Dr. Ann Nichols, 510-339-5460 ext.319, Pacific Union	3BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$1,295,000
1842 Grandview Dr. Open Sunday Prudential California, Nancy Plattford, 510-845-0200	3BD/-BA	2-4	\$1,295,000
6207 Methuen Ave. Upper Rockledge Denise Knowland, 510-339-6460 ext.318, Pacific Union	4BD/3.5BA	2-4	\$1,295,000
1033 Amilo Ave. Dee Knowland, 510-339-6460 ext.318, Pacific Union	4BD/4BA	2-4-30	\$1,095,000
6150 Mazuela Dr. Montclair Sandy Chin, Prudential 510-339-9290	4BD/3 - BA	2-4-30	\$1,200,000
12259 Grand View Dr. Claremont Karen Star, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/2 - BA	2-4-30	\$1,195,000
7251 Skyline Montclair Jack Brennan, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	4 + BD/4BA	2-4-30	\$1,095,000
6040 Ocean View Dr. Michael Thompson, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	4 + BD/1BA	2-5	\$1,095,000
1053 Sunnyhills Crocker Highlands Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-9400	3 + BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$950,000
6055 Romney Rd. Open Sunday Deborah Hill 510-527-3060, Richey R.E. & Invest	5BD/2BA	2-5	\$949,000
7400 Woodrow Dr. Hillier Highlands Kurt Buchholz, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/2 + BA	2-4-30	\$949,000
3237 Monterey Dr. Redwood Heights Barbara Hopper, Prudential CA 510-845-0211	5BD/3 - BA	2-5	\$939,000
193 Florence Upper Rockledge Halshon Chew, Prudential 510-287-0003	3 - BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$929,000
55 Bay Forest Dr. Oakland - Berkeley Hills Patric Hiccupoulos, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-339-4790	3 - BD/4BA	2-4-30	\$899,000
6037 Fairland Dr. Montclair Karlo & Hansen, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	5BD/2 - BA	2-4-30	\$885,000
1157 Rutland Rd. Montclair Jaya Shinnari, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-531-7000 ext. 288	4BD/2 - BA	2-4-30	\$879,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1838 Grand View Dr Hillier Highlands Suzanne Paul, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/2 - BA	2-4-30	\$875,000
6948 Bristol Dr. Claremont Hills Angelica Fox-Lewis, Prudential CA 510-945-0211	4BD/4 - BA	2-5	\$850,000
6838 Charing Cross Rd. Oakland Hills Charles Curran, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/3 - BA	2-4-30	\$825,000
1850 Arrowhead Montclair Ellen Lancaster, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3BD/2 - BA	1:30-4:30	\$799,000
585 Bellevue Ave. Montclair Ellen Lancaster, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3BD/2 - BA	1-4	\$799,000
7085 Exeter Dr Crocker Highlands Bethanne Baker, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/2 - BA	2-4-30	\$799,000
5526 Telf Ave Rockledge Lawton Associates, Ron Wilson 510-547-5970	5 + BD/4BA	1-5	\$795,000
5315 Castle Dr Montclair Neil Davis, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-531-7000 ext. 283	3BD/3 - BA	2-4-30	\$785,000
7041 Hemlock St. Montclair OPEN SAT. & SUN. Bruce Barling, Coldwell Banker, 415-269-1966	4BD/3BA	1-4	\$749,000
1822 Drake Dr. Montclair Kathy Flynn, 510-339-6460 ext.317, Pacific Union	5BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$725,000
1000 Mandana Crocker Highlands Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-9400	4BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$699,000
1000 Mandana Crocker Highlands Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-9400	4BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$699,000
1077 Ardmore Ave Crocker Highlands Michele Delacruz, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	4BD/2 - BA	2-4-30	\$699,000
6277 Rutland Rd. Montclair Ashley Wilcox O'Neil, 510-339-6460 ext.388, Pacific Union	4BD/3.5BA	2-4-30	\$689,000
1254 Holman Rd. Hillier Highlands Hader Darat, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3 - BD/2BA	1-4-30	\$685,000
25 Melitt Pl. Prudential Pines Wendy Gardner, 510-339-6460 ext.303, Pacific Union	3 - BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$675,000
4455 Oak Hill Souqahy Rpts Herb Hanner, Prudential 510-339-9290	4BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$675,000
7085 Exeter Dr Oakland Adam Betts, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$675,000
70 Pine Hills Court Berkham Adam Betts, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$675,000
5517 Moraga Ave Montclair Nahid Nassif, Montclair Better Homes, 510-287-5770	3BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$669,000
2039 Trafalgar Dr. Prudential State of Montclair Erk Kingston, Prudential 510-339-9290	3BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$649,000
1290 Trestle Glen Rd. Open Sunday Red Oak (510) 280-2185, A. Breche	3 - BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$629,000
25 Schooner Hill Hillier Highlands Gayle Tansau 510-339-8900 La Salle Properties	2BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$625,000
5958 Harbord Prudential state of Montclair Open Sun Hilly Hanna 510-339-9900 La Salle Properties	2 - BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$625,000
6101 Coach Dr Oakland Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-4000	5BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$599,000
590 Kernway Open Sunday Prudential, Chris Henderson, (510) 527-0174	3 - BD/-BA	1-4	\$590,000

OAKLAND

5500 Estates Dr Upper Rockledge Erica Coleman, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	8BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$686,000
629 Santa Ray Lakeshore Patty Ray, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3BD/3 - BA	1-4	\$686,000
6070 Colton Blvd. Montclair Dick Cohen, 510-339-6460 ext.308, Pacific Union	4BA/3BA	2-4-30	\$569,950
4944 Mountain Bvd Avenue Decisor, Prudential 510-428-0800	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$568,000
541 Mandana Crocker Highlands Dian Wyner 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$568,000
2506 Leimert Blvd Oakland Hills Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-9400	4BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$549,000
5908 Ridgewood Dr Montclair Montclair Better Homes, Nahid Nassif, 510-287-5770	4BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$549,000
585 Santa Ray Open Sunday Oakland Hills Debbie 510-445-0200, Prudential California	3 - BD/-BA	2-4-30	\$545,000
1001 Portal Ave. Crocker Highlands Heather Himmel, 510-339-6460 ext.307, Pacific Union	2BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$529,000
6636 Saroni Dr. Montclair Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-9400	4BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$529,000
5741 Grishome Ave. Montclair Kathy Florence, Prudential 510-339-9290	3BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$525,000
1275 Drury Rd. Red Oak (510) 280-2125, Kathy	Det lot	2-4	\$500,000
1773 Indian Way Open Sunday Red Oak (510) 280-2103, Marc	3BD/2BA	2-4	\$495,000
4339 Terrabella Pl Redwood Hills Gene Boomer, Prudential 510-339-9290	3BD/2 - BA	2-4-30	\$495,000
395 60th St Beverly Hills David Higgins, Prudential 510-428-0900	3BD/2BA	1-4	\$495,000
6792 Sims Dr. Montclair Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-9400	3BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$495,000
8495 Skyline Montclair George Konant, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	2 - BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$449,000
550 Jean St Oakland Michael Winchester, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$449,000
3387 Jordan Rd. Montclair Diane Earl McCan 510-339-6460 ext.352, Pacific Union	3BD/2BA	2-4-30 R d w o o Heights	\$439,000
859 Walker Ave. Open Sunday Prudential California 510-945-0200	3 - BD/-BA	1-5	\$429,000
2716 Carlson Blvd Taliau Murphy, Prudential CA Realty 510-834-2010	3BD/2 - BA	10-5	\$425,000
5915 Zinn Dr. Montclair Dell Orr, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	2BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$419,000
5757 Moraga Ave. Claremont Clare Shih, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-331-7000 ext.27	2 - BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$399,000
3517 Victor Ave Redwood Hills David Hsu, Prudential 510-339-9290	3BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$389,500
45 Merrimwood Circle Aleen Gournat, Prudential 510-428-0900	2BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$389,000
1555 Lakeside Dr #171 Downtown Ed Kuo, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	2BD/2BA	2-4-30	\$375,000
7520 Sterling Dr Kingston Estates Montclair Better Homes, 510-339-4000	2 - BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$359,000
3709 Loma Vista Kathleen & Patrick Ng 925-736-7551, Kams & Associates	3BD/-BA	2-4	\$349,000
6323 Valley View Joan E. House 510-339-6460 ext.358, Pacific Union	2BD/3BA	2-4-30	\$349,000
2589 Athol Nancy Noman 510-339-6460 ext.373, Pacific Union	3 - BD/1BA	2-4-30 Haddad Hill	\$349,000
3022 Brook St Piedmont Ave Brian Santelera, Prudential 510-339-9290	3BD/1 - BA	2-4-30	\$349,000
4503 Tompkins Ave. Victi Woodhead 510-339-6460 ext.334, Pacific Union	2 - BD/2BA	2-4-30 Launi	\$329,000
3809 Laurel Ave. Montclair Carol Cohen 510-339-9900 La Salle Properties	2 - BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$325,000
4134 Vale Ave. Open Sunday Red Oak (510) 280-2111, Arlene	3BD/1.5BA	2-4-30	\$325,000
5658 Bellevue Ave #100 Lake Merritt Jerry Daulton 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	1BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$319,000
2838 Reawson Beverly Hills Barbara Rosser, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-331-7000 ext. 254	3BD/1BA	2-4-30	\$310,000
1555 Lakeside Dr #189 Lake Merritt Sue Hession, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-331-7000 ext. 349	2BD/1 - BA	2-4-30	\$299,000

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577 Window
578 Window
579 Window
580 Window
581 Window
582 Window
583 Window
584 Window
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Sales

FROM PAGE B10

3619 Kansas St - \$190,000
16 Kimberley Ct - \$587,500
758 Kingston Av #26 - \$200,000
3316 Laguna Wy - \$310,000
5836 Lawton Av - \$686,000
5386 Locksley Av - \$501,000
2901 MacArthur #311 - \$120,000
3203 MLK Jr - \$265,000
6001 Monadnock Wy - \$470,000
9716 Mountain Bl - \$425,000
1824 Myrtle St - \$255,000
4101 Oak Hill Rd - \$275,000
6416 Outlook Av - \$195,000
330 Park View Tr #107 - \$210,000
338 Park View Tr #411 - \$125,000
1032 Peralta St - \$311,500
2173 Ransom Av - \$91,000
5425 Shafter Av - \$500,000
4800 Stacy St - \$350,000
4632 Steele St - \$200,000
3118 Suter St - \$245,000
2463 Truman Av - \$170,000
500 Vernon St #104 - \$163,500
3654 Victor Av - \$466,000
3677 Virden Av - \$287,000
5 Windward Hill - \$570,000
3380 Wyman St - \$375,000

PIEDMONT

114 Indian Rd - \$895,000

RICHMOND

560 18th St - \$170,000
326 20th St - \$115,000
951 30th St - \$240,000
752 32nd St - \$300,000
565 6th St - \$122,000
2722 Andrade Av - \$222,000
2742 Barnard Dr - \$175,000
330 Barrett Av - \$90,000
1726 Bissell Av - \$139,000
2525 Duke Av - \$208,000
1321 Park Central Ct - \$290,000
217 Sanford Av - \$157,000
1302 Santa Clara St - \$140,000
572 South 2nd St - \$154,500

SAN LEANDRO

15931 Berkshire Rd - \$345,000
15313 Central Av - \$295,000
2019 Constitution Ct - \$580,000
16569 Cowell St - \$375,000
1092 Devonshire Av - \$295,000
16364 Helo Dr - \$170,000
1555 Hickory Av - \$92,000
421 Joaquin Av - \$230,000
770 St. Marys Av - \$300,000
506 Thornton St - \$243,000
1101 Tulip Ln - \$450,000
236 West Broadmoor Bl - \$345,000
3847 Yorkshire St #8 - \$240,000

SAN LORENZO

15859 Corte Mariana - \$273,500
1324 Jacqueline Pl - \$245,000
678 Via Acalanes - \$295,000
15780 Via Sonata - \$345,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST PRICE: \$250,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$805,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$438,542

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$225,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,300,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$398,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$547,056

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$196,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$560,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$378,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$125,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$235,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$180,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$180,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$186,000

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2 BDRM /1.5 Baths, vaulted ceilings, fire, PENDING living room \$299,000

1600 FERNSIDE BLVD.
Craftman, Master's Suite - Remodeled, 2 BDRM plus sunroom. 1.5 Baths \$469,000

2101 SHORELINE DR. #274
2 BDRM/1.5 Baths \$269,000

SAN LEANDRO

14390 OUTRIGGER DR.
2/2 Ground floor, \$280,000

2500 GALLEON DR. #2/2
Ground floor, \$260,000

14016 OUTRIGGER DR. 2 BD
2.5 BA, 2 car garage, \$280,000

14418 OUTRIGGER DR. 3BD,
21/2 BA, 2 car garage, \$325,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$335,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$278,583

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$925,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 58
LOWEST PRICE: \$91,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$686,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$288,716

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$895,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 14
LOWEST PRICE: \$90,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$300,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$180,179

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 13
LOWEST PRICE: \$92,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$580,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$295,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$304,615

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 4
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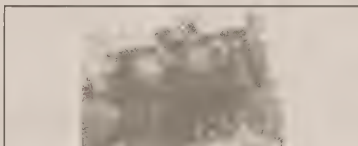
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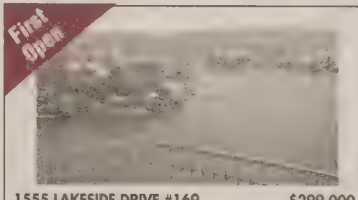
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SPORTS

JV

Friday, March 23, 2001

Section C

Soccer ACCYSL Mavericks Select Soccer Team holding signups [C2]

Arts Opera, action movie get new twists [C3]

It's all about these young men'

Panthers claim first-ever state basketball title; Freeman scores 20, Sharper 17; Moore records double-double

By Matt Petersen

Before game time last Saturday afternoon, St. Mary's coach Jose Caraballo paced the halls of Arco Arena.

He was waiting for the final of the Division IV girls' basketball state championship game that was scheduled to be played at the Arco Arena. Caraballo had a nervous grin and admitted that his squad was a little jumpy, but they were ready to play.

If they were nervous, they had a right to be. His boys were about to compete for the school's first state title, and were going to do so inside the gargantuan Arco Arena in Sacramento (think the scene in the movie "Hoosiers" when they first step into the Hoosier Dome).

Oh, and they were about to take on a pretty solid 25-5 Crossroads of Santa Monica team (winners of its last 14 games) across the way also. The Roadrunners boasted a 6-foot-

Prep boys' basketball

State championships
Division IV

St. Mary's 76
Crossroads 62



ANNOUNCING WHO WAS NO. 1 from center court, the St. Mary's Panthers celebrated their first-ever state basketball title with a pile-on at Arco Arena. Playing in Sacramento on March 17, the Panthers defeated Crossroads of Santa Monica 76-62 to claim the Division IV title.

10 center by the name of Isaiah Fox, who put up a mere 33 points and 22 rebounds in their 66-52 regional final victory a week prior, to Garces Memorial.

So the Panthers had just a little on their minds, and to say that their big men — Simon Knight, Chase

Moore and Lorenzo Alexander — were going to have their hands full, would have been a touch of an understatement. All hyperbole aside,

Caraballo had his team ready to pound the hardwood Saturday, and

See CHAMPS, Page C2

Roberson can't pull off upset

Yellowjackets fall to Narbonne in state title game

By Gabrielle Stevenson

SACRAMENTO — Roberson left it all out on the court on Saturday. She was the last player to touch the ball, and she took the last shot.

Prep girls' basketball

The Berkeley High School girls' basketball team lost to Narbonne-Harbor City 48-45 in the California

Interscholastic Federation Division I state championship game at Arco Arena, but Roberson did everything she could to prevent that outcome.

With less than one second left in the game, Roberson tossed up a 3-point shot that bounced off the backboard. Narbonne avoided the tie, and took the championship.

Narbonne (28-3) beat Berkeley 64-52 in last year's title game, and also topped the Yellowjackets in 1997. In 1997, Narbonne was stripped of the title for using ineligible players.

On Saturday, Roberson said she wanted to do everything she could to avoid a repeat of 2000. She started off slow, contributing only four points in the first half as the Yellowjackets (27-6) went into halftime with a 22-12 deficit.

The second half was a different story, and Roberson finished with a

See GIRLS HOOPS, Page C2

Runners go long 'Distance'

Duffy, Vasquez, Horowitz among leaders at annual Distance Fest

By Scott Strain and Bill Krussink

PEDMONT — Seemingly, there was something for everyone at this year's Bay Area Distance Festival held at Witter Field Friday afternoon.

For some, that meant going up against some of the top runners in the Bay Area. For others, it meant being the leader of the pack. What was just about everyone had a good

"I love this track," said St. Mary's' Rudy Vasquez, who placed 16th in the 1600 in 4 minutes, 35.5 seconds. "I've never run here before. It's really a fun event to run in because the competition level is so great."

Competing in ideal conditions — warm temperatures, but not too cool; a state-of-the-art all-weather track — more than 700 runners from 35 schools took part in the event, which was its third year.

The meet organizers Doyle O'Regan and Tony Kauke, it was a "perfect event" — seven separate events, even new meet records. Who could ask for anything more?

In the fast heat of the girls' 1600, the featured duel was supposed to be between Head-Royce junior Clara Horowitz of Berkeley and Bridget Duffy of St. Mary's. But someone forgot to tell junior Shannon Rowbury of Sacred Heart Cathedral (San Francisco) who upset the apple cart by defeating Horowitz, Duffy and Musante of Bishop O'Dowd.

Duffy, a winner in this event last year, never really got going. Ashleigh Griffin of Grace Davis (Modesto) took the early lead before Horowitz took over on the second lap. The junior from Berkeley held the lead but Rowbury was creeping up and was just behind Horowitz going for the gun lap. Duffy, at this point, was struggling third about 20 yards

behind the leaders.

Rowbury caught Horowitz and the two were neck-and-neck going into the final 200 meters. But the junior from San Francisco passed Horowitz in the final straightaway and won in 4:56.7, a new meet record. Horowitz, bitterly disappointed, was second in 4:58.7. Duffy, who was third, finished in 5:08.7 and Musante was fourth in 5:10.2.

Except for Rowbury, none of the leaders were really happy about this race.

"It didn't go too well," Duffy said. "I didn't run a good time, but I learned a lot. I'm looking forward to next week at St. Francis and then Stanford. This race gets better every year."

Duffy added: "I got a rough start, but there were a lot of other things that went wrong. I didn't run to my potential. The first two laps were slow, and then we ran negative splits, so that was a little tough."

Horowitz was equally disappointed in the result and with the way the first lap was run.

"I wanted to be close to the lead and take it the last 300," she said. "I'm used to going out fast in the first lap, but not here — the first lap was really slow. I said 'O.K., I'm jogging the first lap.' It was so slow — it was ridiculous."

"I could have gone faster; it was stupid of me to go out that slow."

Horowitz was also entered in the 800, but was a late scratch.

But in the 1600, it was the closing speed, the speed that Horowitz doesn't have yet, that propelled Rowbury to victory.

"I'd never run against her (Horowitz) before," she said. "I saw she was entered and I went 'Oh wow!' I knew it was a good race with her and Bridget (Duffy) in it and I kind of wanted to break five minutes because I had never done it before."



IN A RECOVERY MODE (from the flu) St. Mary's runner Rudy Vasquez placed 16th in the 1600 at the Bay Area Distance Fest at Piedmont's Witter Field on March 16. Below, Bridget Duffy saw her record in the 1600 fall. The St. Mary's junior placed third.

"I knew we were going to be together for the whole race, so I was kind of prepared to have other people around at the end. It wasn't too much of a shock to me or anything."

Both Rowbury and Horowitz finished under the meet-record time of 5:02, set by Duffy last year.

It was not a tremendously good night for St. Mary's runners. Sean Geraghty, the record holder in the 800, dipped under that mark, but finished second when Piedmont senior Tom Phelps passed him in the last 100 meters. Besides Duffy's third-place finish in the 1600, the highest placing by a St. Mary's runner was Parras Vega's fifth in the girls 800. Her time was 2:26.2.

Vasquez finished 16th in the last 1600 heat in a time of 4:35.5.

Vasquez explained: "I've had the flu for two or three weeks; I'm just coming out if right now. Today was the first day I've felt decent. I didn't produce like I wanted to today, but it was great feeling. Everyone ran great."

Especially Phelps, who showed

See DISTANCE, Page C2



Albany edged in baseball, softball

By Marc Carig

STAFF WRITER

CROCKETT — Albany High School pitcher Jeremiah Pinguelo's curve ball kept John Swett batters off balance for most of its Bay Shore Athletic League opener on Friday.

However, with one out in the eighth inning and a runner on third base, Phillip Villa smashed Pinguelo's 2-1 curve into right field to give John Swett a 3-2 victory.

"I had to put the ball in the outfield," Villa said. "I wanted to go to right field, where my strength has been lately, so I inside-outed it."

Villa deposited the outside pitch over Albany (3-4-1, 0-1 BSAL) right fielder Tyson Griffin's head to score Steven Dellacruz, who opened the inning with his third walk of the game. Dellacruz moved to second on Robbie Horton's sacrifice bunt and went to third on a wild pitch to set up Villa's game-winning hit.

"Obviously, we didn't execute early on," Indians co-head coach Ron Spini said. "Fortunately, we got some bunts down and something happened."

Villa finished 2-for-2 with an RBI. On defense, the Indians' catcher threw out two Albany baserunners.

Albany jumped on the scoreboard with two unearned runs in the top of the second.

With one out, Indians starting pitcher Ed Davilla misplayed Yaw Yadam's bunt with the bases loaded allowing Matt Ball, who reached on an error, to score from third base.

See BALL, Page C2

Champs

FROM PAGE C1

when all was settled, St. Mary's had wrapped-up the elusive state title by besting Crossroads 76-62 in a game where their speed and hustle over-matched Crossroads' brawn.

The Panther starting backcourt of John Sharper and Dashawn Freeman again proved to be the thorn in the side of the opponent, working relentlessly in the full-court press, leading to 28 Crossroads turnovers.

Freeman led the way for the Panthers with 20 points, seven steals and three assists. Moore had a pleasant game down low, collecting 14 points and grabbing 12 boards. It was a well-rounded game of steady defense, aggressive guard play, and contributions from the bench when the team was in need.

All factors turned Caraballo into a rather happy man.

"It's all about these young men beside me," said Caraballo, flanked by his medal-donning squad on the post game podium. "They have so much heart and will and desire. We've set goals all year long and we finally achieved the last one today. They left everything they had on the court and they had the desire to fulfill their dreams, and they did it."

Knight and Moore, along with Alexander off the bench did battle with Fox, and although the big man had game-high of 30 points and 21 rebounds, they never let him get comfortable in the paint. He was double-teamed on almost every touch, and showed signs of frustration early in the second half due to the suffocating inside presence of the St. Mary's big men.

The Panthers might have liked to start the game off on a better foot as they went 4-15 from the field in the opening stanza, but weren't complaining going into the second quarter.

ter tied 14-14. Three of the four field goals were 3-point buckets — two from Sharper — and their defense was keeping them afloat. Freeman was continually penetrating through Crossroads' backcourt, but his runners were rimming out of the unkind basket.

With the 6-foot-8 sophomore center Knight picking up two quick fouls by 3:09 of the first quarter, and Alexander giving up a good four inches, Crossroads attempted to take advantage of the height discrepancy and kicked the ball inside to Fox. Fox only scored two field goals in the first half, but went to the line five times, hitting all but one of his nine attempts. Fox showed nice touch from the line, going 14-18, but never had the looks inside that he wanted.

"I was telling him that he wasn't going to do any more inside — (that) I was coming in to stop him," Alexander said about Fox. "I was trying to get in his head a little bit, and I figured if we could get in his head, we could slow him down."

Well, Fox didn't exactly slow down, but neither did the Panthers. Their run that sealed the unprecedented victory started early in the second quarter and erupted in the third.

Trailing 17-16 at 6:11 of the second quarter, reserve guard Matt Straus emerged off the bench to give St. Mary's the lead, and the lead for good. He wowed the St. Mary's faithful on a crowd pleasing stop-and-pop head fake in the paint that sent two Crossroads forwards hurling out of their sneakers. Less than a minute later, Straus kept the fans on their feet by popping a three to up the score to 24-17.

At the end of the half, St. Mary's was up 31-27, and they wouldn't look back.

"Matt came ready to play today, he came ready to play," Caraballo said emphatically. Straus ended with six points. Also playing well off the bench was Terrance Boyd who added

eight points.

The second half saw the Panthers pull away in their textbook run-and-gun fashion. Crossroads didn't have a soul in the backcourt who could touch the speedy Freeman and Sharper. After Sharper's two 3's in the first, he finished with 17 points and four steals. He was ice from the line down the stretch and went 8-for-10 for the game. Freeman swiped five of his seven steals in the second and third quarters.

When Crossroads seemed to tire in the crucial stretch, St. Mary's just got stronger, outscoring the Roadrunners 23-14 in the third.

The coup-de-grace came at 4:16 of the third when Sharper, off a steal, fed a streaking Freeman on a two-one fast break. Freeman got the bucket and the foul putting the Panther's up 41-35. St. Mary's would go on to outscore Crossroads 12-5 to end the quarter, and 22-21 in the fourth. Ballgame.

When the final buzzer sounded, the unbelievable had come true and the team rushed the floor and jumped in a big dog-pile in celebration. It was elation coming at the pinnacle of a tenuous season.

For Caraballo, the championship is all sweeter knowing he gets the majority of his squad back next year for a repeat job.

"Our goal is to reach the State Championships every year, and the kids believe in it now," he said. "This is the first year and it's not going to be our last."

Post game: After the game, Caraballo stated that he and St. Mary's will be petitioning for Division I status next year ... St. Mary's held Crossroads to a scant 19-for-51 from the field, and 0-8 from behind the arc.

The Panthers' win was the only one by a Northern California team. Northern Californian teams went 1-for-9 against Southern California teams.



BERKELEY'S SABRINA KEYS (34) AND GELATER FULLWOOD battled for possession of the ball in the Yellowjackets' 48-45 loss to Narbonne in the state Division I girls' basketball final at Arco Arena March 17.

Girls hoops

FROM PAGE C1

game-high 26 points.

"I am very disappointed because I think we worked too hard all season to come out second," Robertson said. "We showed them that we are No. 1 and we left it all out on the court. I know I left it all out there tonight."

It was the third time the two teams met in the final game, and it was the third time Robertson took home the win. Robertson made sure it was also the toughest win for Narbonne.

"They played a hell of a game," Narbonne coach James Anderson said. "Berkeley had the will to win. We beat them twice already and no one wants to lose this game. It wasn't that we played a horrible game, but they played so well."

Anderson added: "Robin had a great game, and she had a great fourth quarter. This was a fourth-

quarter game."

The Gauchos had a 38-28 lead with 7:46 left in the game. That's when Robertson caught fire. She hit three straight jumpers to close the gap to 38-34. Amber Fouse hit a basket for Narbonne, giving it a six-point lead. Robertson countered with a 3-pointer. Less than 30 seconds later, Angelita Hutton nailed another 3-pointer for Berkeley, tying the game 40-40.

After Narbonne got the lead back to 44-41 with 2:54 remaining in the game, Robertson drilled a jumper from near the free-throw line with 2:01 left on the clock. At 1:20, she drove the baseline and hit a turnaround layup and give Berkeley its first lead of the game, 45-44. Narbonne, however, sank four free throws down the stretch to take the lead back and seal the win.

"The game was just too close to give up," Robertson said. "I knew we were capable of winning. In the first half my shots were off-balance and coach (Gene Nakamura) pointed that out."

"In the fourth quarter, I was in a zone. I didn't click, but I knew I was one would lead off the bench. Narbonne's Lisa ... will play for Tennessee ... said Robertson said ...

"Robin really put ... said 'She was doing ... wanted to do. We believe first half, but she made ... her game.'"

Robertson walked off the court with a look of determination and tonight, Robertson a little hesitated because I never wanted bad game in them. I was sure I represent Arizona ... "The only thing that ... been better is getting the ... I feel like I gathered myself ... time and I helped give ... fidence in the second ...

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mavs soccer tryouts

The ACCYSL Mavericks Select Soccer Team will hold tryouts for boys and girls through April 29. The girls' tryouts will be at Fielding and Gabe fields on Fifth Street near Gilman in Berkeley. The boys' tryouts will be held on the same fields, as well as Booker T. Anderson field in Richmond, Cypress Avenue near 47th Street.

■ Under-10/11 girls, Mar. 25, 1 p.m. at Gabe West.

■ Under-12 girls, born between 8-1-88 and 7-31-89, Mar. 25, 3:00 p.m. Gabe West.

■ Under-13 girls, born between 8-1-88 and 7-31-89, March 25, 3 p.m. at Gabe East.

■ Under-14 girls, born between 8-1-87 and 7-31-88, Sunday, March 25, 5 p.m. at Gabe East.

■ Under-15 girls, Sunday, March 18, 1 p.m. at Gabe-West; Sunday, April 22, 10 a.m. at Fielding; Sunday, April 29, 3 p.m. at Gabe-West.

■ Under-16 girls, Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m. at Gabe-West; April 22, noon a.m. at Fielding.

■ Under-17/19 girls, Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m. at Gabe-West; Sunday, April 22, noon at Fielding; Sunday, April 29, 1 p.m. at Gabe-West.

■ Under-11 boys, born between 8-1-90 and 7-31-91, Sunday, March 25, 10 p.m. at Fielding.

■ Under-12 boys, born between 8-1-89 and 7-31-90, Sunday, March 25, none at Fielding.

■ Under-13 boys, born between 8-1-88 and 7-31-89, Sunday, March 25, 2 p.m. at Fielding.

■ Under-14 boys, born between 8-1-87 and 7-31-88, Sunday, March 25, 4 p.m. at Fielding.

■ Under-15 boys, Sunday, Sunday, April 8, 10 a.m. at Fielding; Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m. at Gabe-West; Sunday, April 29, 3 p.m. at Gabe-West.

■ Under-16 boys, Sunday, Sunday, April 8, noon at Fielding; Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m. at Gabe-West; Sunday, April 29, 9 a.m. at BT Anderson.

■ Under-17 boys, Sunday, Sun-

day, April 8, 5 p.m. at Gabe-West; Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m. at Gabe-West; Sunday, April 29, 11 a.m. at BT Anderson.

■ Under-18/19 boys, Sunday, Sunday, April 8, 2 p.m. at Fielding; Sunday, April 22, 5 p.m. at Gabe-West; Sunday, April 29, 1 p.m. at BT Anderson.

For more information, turn to the Mavericks Web site <http://www.accysl.org>. Or call the Mavericks at (510) 655-8500.

The Mavericks program, which competes in the fall, has been drawing players from the East Bay since 1989. The program fields 19 teams in age brackets from under-11 through under-19.

Albany Little League

Albany Little League will kick off its 2001 season with an opening-day parade, ceremony and festivities on Saturday, March 31. The celebration begins at 9 a.m. with a parade, which includes Albany-Berkeley Girls Softball League members, down Solano Ave. to the University Village Fields. Opening day ceremonies should get underway at 10 a.m.

For more information, call Mike Lee at 526-6199, or email to mgwlaw@aol.com; or call Albany Little League President Rex Higginbotham at 526-1404.

Swimming

The El Cerrito Gators year-round youth swim team is open to swimmers 5-18 who can swim one length of the pool. The Gators' program emphasizes fitness, teamwork and offers opportunities for healthy competition. The club accommodates all levels of swimmers and focuses on perfecting technique, improving endurance and increasing speed. Swimmers and parents are encouraged to meet the coaches and try out one day at no charge. Monthly cost is \$41 per swimmer. Monthly family rates are \$62 for two swimmers and \$83 for three. For information, call 215-4375.

The Silver Dolphin Swim Club, a new U.S. Swimming-affiliated team, is recruiting swimmers ages 5-18. Practices and home meets take place in the new indoor pool at the Richmond Swim Center. Practices are held in the afternoons Monday through Friday. For more information, call 528-8227 or 524-9138.

Ball

FROM PAGE C1

Bryan Gross singled in Chris Colvin to give Albany a 2-0 lead.


John Swett (7-2, 1-0) answered in the bottom of the second when Joseph Padilla put down a suicide squeeze to score Villa, who was on third.

Pinguino allowed just two hits the rest of the way, but surrendered six walks.

With their bats in check, the In-


dians manufactured the game-tying run in the top of the seventh. Pinch-hitter Jeff Davidson drew a leadoff walk and stole second base. Mike Detomasi's sacrifice bunt moved Davidson to third with one out. Mike Santos' sacrifice fly scored Davidson.

Softball



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Arts

New comedy good for the heart

■ Weaver-Hewitt collaboration is well-written, with genuine laughs and an old-fashioned sense of style

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

Something about Jennifer Love Hewitt breeds low expectations, but the new comedy "Heartbreakers" is good enough to make one reevaluate the teeny-bopper.

She's certainly got a smart agent, because he or she has landed the actress in the funniest big Hollywood release since "Meet the Parents." Granted, it's only been five months since "Parents" turned up, and I did fall asleep the second time I saw that movie, but gracious, it's nice to sit back in a theater and just enjoy a well-written comedy with a slightly old-fashioned sense of style and quick, unpredictable pacing.

Hewitt plays Page, the daughter half of a mother-daughter con-artist team. Sigourney Weaver is her mother, Max, or Olga, or Angela, depending on what con she's playing. The duo have a very successful scam whereby Weaver seduces wealthy men into marrying her (without ever sleeping with them) and then Page,

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Heartbreakers"
■ **STARRING:** Sigourney Weaver, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Ray Liotta, Gene Hackman, Jason Lee
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (sex-related content and language)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 3 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
■ **GRADE:** B+

who has insinuated her way into the men's workplace or household as a secretary or housekeeper, presents them with enough temptation to warrant a quick divorce and lucrative settlement. It's worked a dozen times already. As we met them, they're just pulling the con on Dean (Ray Liotta), the trashy boss of a chop shop in New Jersey.

Much of the movie's pleasure derives from watching the clever execution of the cons. These two don't even pay for gas — even when they've got Dean's \$300,000 check stashed in their cute little handbags. "I'll get the check" takes on a whole new meaning when Weaver says it.



RAY LIOTTA and Sigourney Weaver star in "Heartbreakers," a movie focused on a mother-daughter pair of con artists.

Apparently, several actresses expressed interest in "Heartbreakers" before Weaver and Hewitt, including Jennifer Aniston and Cher (the hair alone would have been interesting), but director David Mirkin ("The Simpsons," "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion") arrived at one pair that seems just right. True, Weaver is twice as tall as Hewitt, but their mother-daughter chemistry

feels genuine.

Page is of an indeterminate age, presumably early 20s, where she wants to break free of her mother's control and start conning on her own. She's tired of playing second fiddle to her mom and she's itching to compete with her. Their bickering has just the right bitter edge. The

See COMEDY, Page C5

Little screen, big names on TV

Filmmakers no longer see working in TV as slumming

In March of 1998, James Cameron, the mastermind behind "Titanic," bolted up to the podium during the Academy Award ceremonies and proclaimed, "I'm the king of the world!" Two years later, he found himself working on the pilot for "Dark Angel," a new television show for the Fox network.

Had the king suddenly misplaced his crown? No, he was just exercising a conscious career choice that is becoming more common in Hollywood these days. Viable feature film producers, actors and writers, who traditionally have scorned television, are now embracing it and, in the process, blurring the lines between the two media.

Says Cameron, "I just want to dabble in other things. As a storyteller, I don't really draw the distinction between the big screen and the so-called little screen."

He's part of a growing crowd. As another Academy Award night approaches, it's worth noting that this year's field features several



CHUCK BARNEY
As Seen on TV

connections to TV. Tom Hanks, who got his start in a sitcom and is vying for his unprecedented third best-actor statue, has teamed up with superstar director Steven Spielberg to produce an upcoming World War II miniseries for HBO called "Band of Brothers." Then there's Danny DeVito's Jersey Films, which produced "Erin Brockovich" and is also responsible for the new CBS drama "Kate Brasher."

Meanwhile, Ellen Burstyn, who is up for the best actress prize, can be seen in the CBS series "That's Life." Joan Allen, another best actress hopeful, will appear in the upcoming TNT cable film "The Mists of Avalon." In the best supporting actress category, Judi Dench is just coming off a Golden Globe-winning performance in HBO's "The Last of the Blonde

Bombshells," and Marcia Gay Harden has filmed an upcoming "Spencer" movie for A&E.

On TV first

Oh, and if you want to get technical about it, best picture nominee "Traffic" was actually based on a British television miniseries that aired on PBS in 1990 and is considered by some critics to be superior to director Steven Soderbergh's version.

Perhaps it was Helen Hunt who set the tone in 1998, when she became the first performer to win an Emmy ("Mad About You") and an Oscar ("As Good as It Gets") in the same calendar year. With the double-barreled triumph, she sent a loud message: You can work in both TV and features and still be taken seriously.

Of course, this cross-pollination has its limits. Don't expect Tom Cruise or Julia Roberts to wave off their \$20 million paychecks to do a weekly TV series any time soon (although Roberts did appear in a "Law & Order" episode with her main squeeze, Benjamin Bratt). In the eyes of many mega screen stars, TV will always be the less-glamorous kid sister to film.

Still, some performers tradition-

ally associated with feature work are giving TV a go with varying degrees of success. Last fall, Oscar-winner Geena Davis and Bette Midler debuted in their own sitcoms, and both shows struggled to achieve ratings success. "The Geena Davis Show" continues to limp along on ABC, but "Bette" was recently canceled by CBS. Another comedy, "Madigan Men," headlined by feature actor Gabriel Byrne, expired before Christmas.

On the other hand, Robert Downey Jr. and Anne Heche injected new life into their shaky careers with appearances in "Ally McBeal," as did Charlie Sheen with his regular role in "Spin City." Dianna Wiest also took a break from the big screen to appear as a regular in the venerable "Law & Order," and Sally Field shot several gripping episodes for "ER." Next week, Joan Cusack launches her own sitcom ("What About Joan") on ABC.

American snobs?

Before making his quick exit, Byrne had several interesting things to say about the TV/movie crossover as it applies to performers. A native of Dublin, he pointed

See BARNEY, Page C5

Opera, action movie get new twists

TWO EAST BAY theatrical openings Friday promise an over-the-top spin on a couple of classic genres that couldn't be farther apart — opera and action movies.

Berkeley Opera opens its 2001 season with Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" — with a twist. Which sounds like, but isn't, some newfangled martini during intermission.

"Action Movie: The Play" is Impact Theatre's outlandish take on martial arts film mayhem — with tongue-in-cheek action heroes and excessive villains. Which sounds like, but isn't, some oldfangled eroticism.

The twist on the Mozart opera is a loose translation of the original play the composer built on, "Le Mariage de Figaro" by French dramatist Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais. The notorious comedy thumbed its nose at the decadence of the nobility and, some say, helped spark the French Revolution. At any rate, it was prickly enough to cause jittery European rulers to ban it all across the continent.

To get permission to turn the banned comedy into an opera, Mozart and his librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte, had to agree to eliminate its most biting references.

But now, let's do the "what-if" twist. Suppose there hadn't been any nervous court censorship?

That's what Berkeley Opera and musicologists Sherwood Dudley and Miriam Ellis asked. And the answer is a loose translation of the



JACK TUCKER
Community theater

play's original French title, with the addition of the words, "ou La folle journée." Those last four words translate to "or The Crazy Day."

The new version is modeled on an actual production mounted at the Paris Opera shortly after the Revolution, supervised by Beaumarchais himself.

The production will be sung in the Dudley and Ellis English adaptation.

Jenny Lord is directing "The Marriage of Figaro," or "The Crazy Day." Jonathan Khuner is music director and conductor, assisted by Thomas Shobotham, who also prepared the chorus.

Scenic design is by Mellie Katakalos; costumes by Donovan Thompson; lighting by Rachel Steck.

Singers include Shawnette Sulker as Susanna, Jillian Khuner as the Countess, Sonia Gariaeff as Cherubino, Ken Goodson as the Count, and Thomas C. Perte as Figaro.

Supporting roles are sung by Anna Nicolaus, Sara Frister, John Lindstrom, Wayne Wong, Andrew Morgan and Ian Kirk.

"The Marriage of Figaro, or The Crazy Day" plays at 8 p.m. Friday at the Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640

College Ave., Berkeley.

Additional performances will be at 8 p.m. March 30 and 31; 7 p.m. March 25 and April 1; and 2 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets are \$30 general; \$24 for seniors; \$15 for youths 17 and under. Full-time students with ID may purchase unsold seats 20 minutes prior to curtain for \$10. Tickets are available at the Willows Theatre box office, or call 925-798-1300.

SO BAD IT'S GOOD: "Action Movie: The Play" by Joe Foust and Richard Ragsdale is also a makeover of an original genre that's been wide open for parody for a long time. It had its first outing at Chicago's Defiant Theatre — the name ought to tell us something — in 1999.

Combine the most telling elements of sardonic tough-talking, grunt-and-bark cop films with those thrust-and-kick martial arts movies and you come up with a natural.

Now at the Impact Theatre — also an apt name for its efforts to reach a new generation of theatergoers with original works — this comic spoof is billed as including just about every cliché in the genre.

Directed by Impact co-founder Christopher Morrison, the characters include Jack Jackson, a cop with a string of dead partners and a bad attitude (played by Noah James Butler); the half-machine Cyborg Woman (Sarina Hart); Stone Hardgood, a Vietnam vet with a grudge (Vince Camillo); and Kreegar, an evil genius poised to

take over the world (Alex Pearlstein).

"Action Movie: The Play" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through April 21 at the Eighth Street Studio, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. Tickets are \$12 general; \$7 for students. Call 510-464-4468.

A GENEROUS GESTURE: A dowd of the topper to director Edward Belasco and Dr. Sam Lewis. They distributed 1,000 tickets and provided 11 buses to bring underprivileged children from San Pablo, Berkeley and Oakland to Schimley Little Theatre in the Berkeley High School complex Thursday to see the Belasco Theatre Company's production of "Little Shop of Horrors." The cast is made up of youths the same age as those in the young, guest audience. The musical plays weekends through April 1. Good work.

A FAREWELL: A remembrance and celebration of the life of Dolores Richardson Lubin, actress and playwright long associated with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, was held Sunday at Live Oak Theatre, in Berkeley. Before the memorial ceremony, family and friends gathered for a picnic in the park next to the theater. Lubin died Feb. 14. She was 70.

Send items of interest to Jack Tucker at P.O. Box 100, Pinole, CA 94564; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@ctimes.com, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

EVENTS

Marcus Book Store — Rebecca Walker, March 23. The author discusses her book "Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting-Self." Michael Datcher, March 30. The author discusses his book "Raising Fences: A Black Man's Love Story." Events are free and start at 6:30 p.m. unless listed otherwise. 3900 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Oakland. (510) 652-2344.

Grand Lake Oakland Certified Farmers Market — Ongoing. A chance to buy local organic produce and baked goods. Free. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. MacArthur Boulevard and Grand Avenue, Oakland. (415) 456-FARM or (800) 897-FARM.

Jack London Square Farmers Market — Ongoing. A chance to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, baked goods, and more. Free. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jack London Square, foot of Broadway, Oakland. (510) 814-6000 or www.jacklondonsquare.com.

"A Victorian Easter" At McConaghy Estate — through May 12. Tour the dining room decorated for an authentic Victorian Easter party with more than 100 blown colored eggs suspended from yards of ribbon, handpainted placecards, crepe paper favors, crocheted candy baskets and antique Easter post cards plus a Victorian boutique in the maid's room.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$5.00 children age 6 to 12. Thursday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. McConaghy Estate, 18701 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. (510) 581-0223.

National Library Week At The Oakland Public Library — April 1 through April 7. The library and its branches will be showcasing all the elements that make up a fine urban library system as well as offering talks by famous authors, poetry events, and performances. Free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th St., Oakland. (510) 238-3134.

Golden Gate Geographic Society Travel Film Series — "Bavaria and The Black Forest." Fran and Brooke Reidelberger present their film covering the rich history and magnificent scenery of Bavaria in all four seasons. March 23, 7:45 p.m.: Chabot College Performing Arts Center, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. March 24, 1 p.m.: The Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400 or (800) 274-4447. \$9 general; \$4.50 youths age 14 and under. (800) 247-GGGS.

Paramount Movie Classics Series — ongoing. The evening includes a classic movie, walk-in music from the Wurlitzer organ, a newsreel, cartoon, movie previews and the Paramount's prize give-away game "Dec-O-Win." Call for schedule. "The Birds," March 23, 8 p.m. The Hitchcock classic. "The Sting," March 30, 8 p.m. The 1973 movie featuring Robert Redford and Paul Newman. \$5. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400 or (925) 762-2277.

"The Violent Universe — Crashing Asteroids, Exploding Stars And Cannibal Galaxies" — March 24, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Astronomer Andrew Fraknoi of Foothill College travels to a universe of unimaginable violence in a nontechnical multimedia program designed for science and science fiction fans of all ages. Topics will include "what killed the dinosaurs," "how to protect the Earth from asteroid and comet impacts," falling into black holes, "unpredictable and mysterious cosmic gamma-ray bursts" and "cannibal galaxies." \$95. 155 Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley.

Battle Of The Bay 2001 — March 25, 3 p.m. The 3rd annual charity basketball game between The Oakland Raiders and The San Francisco 49ers. \$14 to \$75. Oakland Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way at Interstate Highway 880 and Hegenberger Road, Oakland. (510) 762-2277 or (510) 569-2121 or www.battleofthebay.com.

National Women's History Month Celebration — March 27, 7 p.m. Celebrate with this special program featuring Yiddish storyteller Jenny Markofsky. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. For all ages. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. (510) 524-3034.

"La Foola: Early Music Vaudeville" — March 30, 7 p.m. An evening of hors d'oeuvres and wine, and an 8 p.m. concert exploring the rare genre of comedy in "early" music including dramatizations of Purcell's "Bess of Bedlam," the "Folia Variations," tea cup "Stomp," and Bernstein's "Bonne Cuisine." A benefit for the San Francisco Early Music Society. \$30. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. (925) 283-7134.

The 6th Annual Bard's Birthday Gala — March 31, 6 p.m. A black tie celebration of the 437th birthday

See EVENTS, Page C5



BILL MANN
Media Notes

Needed: more critics

In a society like ours that is inundated — even, one could argue, besotted — by relentless marketing and sophisticated manipulation of the cheap, the worthless, the superficial, one thing is notably missing: critical thinking.

It's rarely if ever taught in the secondary schools, so few young people today ever seriously question where their news, attitudes, political leaders, or consumer wishes come from, nor are they encouraged to. Just the opposite. And most of them — and their elders, who should know better but usually don't — accept far too many things uncritically. That's why the phrase like "Exit Wounds" is at the top of this week's box-office

charts. It has also been my experience that few colleges, where critical thinking should flourish, rarely make it anymore. Most colleges are far too fixated on moving kids along to the job market and consumer society while also allowing their campuses to be used as sanctuaries for louts and felons who play on what amounts to farm money for professional sports.

Our two children, with our full support, both chose the same college in which critical thinking is discouraged and integral. For young adults, a healthy cynicism — as opposed to simply being misled — is a valuable intellectual resource upon which to draw in life. My kids are skeptical, even cynical, about most of what they see celebrated in mass media and our consumer-driven society today. And, I would submit, they have every reason to be.

This brings us to Sunday night's show cast on ABC-TV, where, once again, mediocrity will not only rule, it will be exalted.

Even this year's first-time host, host boy Steve Martin, says, "I'm trying to be mediocre."

Not to worry, Steve. You already

know who has tried to read my Martin's regularly recurring and decidedly unfunny "Shouts and Murmurs" pieces in the New Yorker will know exactly what I mean. Usually, the New Yorker is a crucible of quality writing. But Martin is a hustler and a well-connected (not wild and crazy) guy, and that's what evidently counts.

That also explains Martin's beautiful, pretentious and faux-intellectual play that ran in S.F. a few years ago, "Picasso at the Lapin Agile." What a pretentious and boring contrivance this was: My title and I would have walked out, but our tickets were a birthday present from a friend who attended with us. The late Herb Caen loved Martin's empty play, but then again, Caen mistakenly squeezed most things French with quality — just as so many Americans equate anything British with class. (To them I say, get thee hither to a video store and rent "This Is Spinal Tap").

The point here today is not to worry on Martin, a bright enough guy whose career probably peaked with "The Jerk," an unpretentious, three Stooges-like film that optimized Martin's real talent — physical, not intellectual, comedy. Martin is only one symptom of a larger social problem — the ignorance and avoidance of anything of actual value or quality.

The Academy Awards are a perfect example of this. Where is a best-written and best-performed cartoon movie in several years, the low-key masterpiece "You Can Count on Me"? True, its star, Laura Linney, did get nominated for Best Actress, but she probably won't get it. That award will probably go to Halle Roberts, whose chief "talent" seems to be having outsized pouting eyebrows, and lips. And ...

I counted at least 30 times in "Count on Me" that the film could have gone for the easy Hollywood route — and every single time it went off in another direction. Intelligent, well-written film was quality in every way imaginable. In this sense, it's the ultimate anti-Hollywood-as-usual film.

I don't know anyone who's seen it and didn't adore it. And, incidentally, Hollywood film producer David Mamet's hit "Glengarry Glen Ross" — an I've now savored it — didn't even get nominated for a major Oscar, ludicrously. Martin, to give him his due,

See MANN, Page C5

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change. Call theaters for information.

Compiled by Hollywood.com

*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday, March 23.

Alameda County

Act I & II

2129 Center Street, Berkeley 843-FIRM
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 7:00, 9:30
 • **The Widow of St. Pierre** (La Veuve de Saint Pierre) (R) 7:10, 9:40

Albany Twin

1145 Soland Avenue, Albany 843-FIRM
 • **In the Mood for Love** (PG) 8:45, 9:50
 • **Pollock** (R) 6:30, 9:10

California Theatres

2113 Kirtland Street, Berkeley 843-FIRM
 • **Chocolat** (PG-13) 1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
 • **The Mexican** (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50

Century 25 Union City Union Landing *

32100 Union Landing Road, Union City 487-9993
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:25, 5:05, 8:40, 7:50, 9:25, 10:30
 • **The Brothers** (R) 11:35 a.m., 12:15, 1:00, 2:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4:20, 5:05, 5:35, 6:45, 7:15, 8:05, 9:10, 10:00, 10:30, 11:35

• **Chocolat** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:10
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 11:40 a.m., 1:10, 2:30, 4:05, 5:10, 6:50, 8:10, 9:35, 11:00
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40, 11:50

• **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 11:45 a.m., 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 5:45, 7:10, 8:45, 10:10, 11:45
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 11:40 a.m., 12:20, 12:55, 1:30, 2:00, 2:40, 3:10, 3:50, 4:20, 5:00, 5:30, 6:15, 6:45, 7:15, 7:55, 8:35, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15, 11:05, 11:45

• **Get Over It** (PG-13) 1:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30, 11:50
 • **Hannibal** (R) 1:05, 4:10, 7:25, 10:25
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 12:50, 2:15, 3:55, 5:00, 5:55, 7:45, 9:55, 10:35

• **The Mexican** (R) 11:35 a.m., 12:30, 2:15, 3:15, 4:55, 6:20, 7:40, 9:05, 10:25, 11:55
 • **Requiem for a Dream** (R) 1:30 a.m., 1:50, 4:40
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 11:55 a.m., 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

• **See Spot Run** (PG) 12:05, 2:35, 4:55, 7:05
 • **Sweet November** (PG-13) 9:20
 • **Traffic** (R) 12:05, 3:05, 7:00, 10:05

• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

Chabot Cinema

2853 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 582-2555
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 9:00
 • **See Spot Run** (PG) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

Chabot Space & Science Center Tien MegaDome *

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 336-7300
 • **The Mysterians of Egypt** (NR) 11:30 a.m., 3:00, 8:30
 • **Solar Max** (NR) 7:30
 • **To Be an Astronaut** (NR) 10:30 a.m., 1:00

Elmwood

2695 College Avenue, Berkeley 849-6530
 • **Requiem for a Dream** (NR) 9:40
 • **Solar Max** (NR) 7:30
 • **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 5:50, 8:50
 • **A Time For Drunken Horses** (NR) 5:00
 • **Wander Boys** (R) 4:50, 7:20
 • **YY (A One and a Two)** (NR) 6:30

Fine Arts Cinema - Berkeley *

2451 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 848-1143
 • **Different For Girls** (R) 3:30
 • **A Tale of Winter** (NR) 9:25

Grand Lake Theater

2300 Grand Avenue, Oakland 452-3556
 • **Chocolat** (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:30
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) noon, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
 • **Traffic** (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:45

Jack London Cinema *

100 Washington Street, Oakland 433-1320
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 11:10 a.m., 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:15
 • **The Brothers** (R) 11:15 a.m., noon, 1:40, 2:25, 4:10, 5:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:20
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 8:00, 10:25
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 1:05, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 9:45, 10:00

• **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 11:05 a.m., 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45
 • **The Mexican** (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:55, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
 • **See Spot Run** (PG) 11:35 a.m., 2:05, 4:40, 7:15

Mann Festival 9 Cinemas Hayward *

19971 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 785-8000
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 1:35, 10:25
 • **The Brothers** (R) 12:15, 12:50, 2:40, 3:15, 5:05, 5:40, 7:30, 8:05, 10:00, 10:40
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, 9:55
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 12:05, 1:10, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 7:40, 10:05, 10:30

• **Get Over It** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:25, 5:05, 8:00, 10:10
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 7:00, 9:50
 • **Requiem for a Dream** (R) 12:45, 5:00, 9:00
 • **See Spot Run** (PG) noon, 2:15, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20

NAZ 8 *

39400 Argonaut Way, Fremont 797-2000
 • **Amiguita** (NR) 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, midnight
 • **Chari Chari Chupke Chupke** (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00, 12:00
 • **Kasoor** (NR) 5:00, 9:00
 • **Kuch Kuch Kuch Meethi** (NR) 4:00, 8:00
 • **Kuch Kasoori** (NR) 5:00
 • **Rashmi** 9:00
 • **Zubeida** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

Oaks Theater *

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 526-1836
 • **Malena** (R) 7:00
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 8:00, 8:00, 10:00
 • **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 9:00

Piedmont Theatre

495 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland 843-FIRM
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
 • **Bullie** (R) 3:45, 6:30, 9:10
 • **You Can Count on Me** (R) 4:30, 7:15, 9:40

Shattuck Cinemas *

2200 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 843-FIRM
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40
 • **Before Night Falls** (R) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
 • **Best in Show** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:55, 5:10, 7:20, 9:25
 • **Billy Elliot** (R) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:20
 • **The House of Mirth** (PG) 2:00, 5:00, 8:15
 • **Me You Them** (NR) 12:50, 3:10, 5:25, 7:35, 9:55
 • **D Brother, Where Art Thou?** 1:55, 4:30, 6:55, 9:30
 • **Quilla** (R) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35
 • **You Can Count on Me** (R) 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

UP Berkeley 7

2274 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 843-1487
 • **The Brothers** (R) 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00
 • **East Away** (PG-13) 1:20, 3:15, 7:10, 10:20
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 12:55, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:45
 • **Get Over It** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:55, 5:10, 7:20, 9:45
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 12:55, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 12:50, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 10:55
 • **Traffic** (R) 12:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:40

UA Emerybay 10 *

1330 Christie Avenue, Emeryville 420-0107
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 11:00 a.m., 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45
 • **The Brothers** (R) 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:50, 2:20, 3:45, 4:40, 5:45, 7:10, 8:10, 9:30, 10:30, 12:30 a.m.
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 10:45 a.m., 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50, 12:30 a.m.
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 12:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

• **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 10:40 a.m., 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30, 12:30 a.m.
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10:30, 12:30 a.m.
 • **Traffic** (R) 12:15, 3:45, 7:20, 10:30

UA Hayward 6 *

24800 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 786-3000
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:50, 10:20
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
 • **Hannibal** (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
 • **The Mexican** (R) 2:00, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 12:40, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45
 • **Traffic** (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

UC Theatre *

2035 University Avenue, Berkeley 843-FIRM
 • **The Legend of Rita** (R) 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Central Contra Costa

Crow Canyon 6 *

2525 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon 820-4831
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 9:55
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
 • **D Brother, Where Art Thou?** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:00
 • **See Spot Run** (PG) 2:30, 4:50, 7:25

Festival Walnut Creek *

1450 North California Ave., Walnut Creek 934-8649
 • **The Mexican** (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:40, 10:15
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:40
 • **Traffic** (R) 12:30, 3:30, 7:10, 10:10
 • **You Can Count on Me** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

Orinda Theater *

4000 Theater Square, Orinda 254-9060
 • **Chocolat** (PG-13) 6:30, 9:00
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 7:00, 9:30
 • **The Mexican** (R) 8:45, 9:15

Park Theater

3519 Gordon Road, Lafayette 283-7997
 • **The Widow of St. Pierre** (La Veuve de Saint Pierre) (R) 7:00, 9:30

Rheem All-Stadium 4 *

350 Park Street, Fremont 366-3411
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 1:15, 7:00, 9:30
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 8:15, 7:30, 9:25
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
 • **Malena** (R) 8:00
 • **Traffic** (R) 8:00

West Contra Costa

Century 10 Pinole *

1401 Theatrical Drive, Pinole 222-8030
 • **The Brothers** (R) 11:30 a.m., 12:15, 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 9:50
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 11:35 a.m., 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:55, 10:35
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:05, 10:00
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) noon, 12:45, 2:20, 3:05, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:45, 10:30
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 10:20
 • **The Mexican** (R) 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:25
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 11:55 a.m., 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:55
 • **See Spot Run** (PG) 12:10, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10

San Francisco

AMC 1000 Van Ness *

1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco (415)922-44MC
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
 • **Chocolat** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 8:05, 10:25
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 12:25, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10, 12:25, 4:40, 7:55, 11:05
 • **Get Over It** (PG-13) 1:55, 5:15, 7:55, 10:55
 • **Hannibal** (R) 1:15, 4:25, 7:40, 10:40
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35
 • **The Mexican** (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 1:05, 4:10, 7:05, 9:45
 • **See Spot Run** (PG) 2:00, 4:55, 7:15
 • **Series 7** (R) 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
 • **Snatch** (R) 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55
 • **Sweet November** (PG-13) 9:50
 • **Traffic** (R) 12:35, 4:00, 7:25, 10:55

AMC Kabuki 8 *

1851 Post Street, San Francisco (415)922-44MC
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:25, 10:10
 • **The Brothers** (R) 1:30, 5:00, 7:55, 10:40
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15
 • **The Debut** (NR) 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:50
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, 10:30
 • **The Mexican** (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:05

Bridge *

3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco (415)352-0810
 • **D Brother, Where Art Thou?** (PG-13) 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

Castro Theater *

Castro Street & Market Street, San Francisco (415)821-6120
 • **Billy Liar** (NR) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15

Clay

2261 Filmore Street, San Francisco (415)352-0810
 • **The Widow of St. Pierre** (La Veuve de Saint Pierre) (R) 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

Embarcadero *

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco (415)352-0810
 • **Before Night Falls** (R) 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 8:45, 9:30
 • **In the Mood for Love** (PG) 12:10, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
 • **Me You Them** (NR) 12:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
 • **Pollock** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
 • **You Can Count on Me** (R) noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Lumiere *

1572 California Street, San Francisco (415)352-0810
 • **Requiem for a Dream** (NR) 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55
 • **The Taste of Others** (La Gout des Autres) (NR) 11:50 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
 • **Too Much Sleep** (NR) 12:45, 5:50, 7:25, 9:40

Opera Plaza Cinemas *

601 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco (415)352-0810
 • **Billy Elliot** (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
 • **Faithless** (R) 12:50, 4:30, 8:00
 • **Bullie** (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
 • **When Brendan Met Trudy** (NR) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45

Red Vic *

1277 Haight Street, San Francisco (415)668-3994
 • **Godzilla** (PG-13) 7:15, 9:15

Roxie *

3117 16th Street, San Francisco (415)863-1087
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 7:00, 9:30

Sony Metreon *

101 4th Street, San Francisco (415)369-0200
 • **15 Minutes** (R) 1:30, 5:00, 8:10, 11:20
 • **The Brothers** (R) 10:50 a.m., 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50
 • **Chocolat** (PG-13) 11:50 a.m., 3:00, 6:20, 9:40
 • **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20, 11:20
 • **Down to Earth** (PG-13) 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 11:10
 • **Enemy at the Gates** (R) 10:40 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 2:10, 3:10, 5:40, 8:40, 9:10, 10:40
 • **Exit Wounds** (R) 11:20 a.m., 12:40, 2:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:20, 7:40, 9:10, 10:40
 • **Get Over It** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30
 • **Hannibal** (R) 12:10, 4:00, 7:30, 10:00
 • **Heartbreakers** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10
 • **The Mexican** (R) 12:25, 3:50, 7:15, 10:25
 • **Say It Isn't So** (R) 11:40 a.m., 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
 • **Traffic** (R) 11:00 a.m., 2:30, 6:00, 9:30

Sony Metreon IMAX *

101 4th Street, San Francisco (415)369-0200
 • **Cirque Du Soleil - Journey of Man** (G) 10:30 a.m., 12:00, 5:45

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

...the Mexican," but its two stars are... and the supporting cast so... especially James Gandolfini, that it... of the time. — M. Pols. (R: violence and language.) 2 hours, 3 minutes. B+

...TO BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?":... the most sublime insane and creative... to come along for awhile is a... of hybrid musical comedy, silent... and "The Wizard of Oz." In the lat... from the Coen brothers, John Tur... (Koons). — M. Pols. (R: violence and language.) 2 hours, 3 minutes. B+

...and Tim Blake Nelson play a trio of... through escapes making their way... the back roads of Mississippi in the... of the Depression. Based on "The... although beyond the basics the... are fairly scant. The... are fantastic, so are the visuals... who want to make a return trip to... the eyes. And there's a nary a... in sight. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language and language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B-

...LOOK": You can't beat the acting in... Ed Harris' biographical movie... Jackson Pollock. As the trou... Harris is brilliant, and so is Mar... as his wife, painter Lee... who sacrifices her own work... the self-destructive genius. The... actors, including Amy Madigan... collector Peggy Guggenheim, are... on. But the movie suffers from the... of yale scuffed-up artist... and, although no bio-pic can cover all... in someone's life, there are... pieces within the version Harris... to tell. In a four-hour version... of HBO, this might have been a... more gloriously rich story. — M. Pols. (R: language and brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B-

...QUILLS": Bay Area filmmaker Philip Kaufman returns to directing after a seven-year... with a big splash, a movie about... the Marquis de Sade that has best-picture... written all over it. Geoffrey Rush... plays the infamous pornographer, who has been imprisoned in an insane asy... He keeps churning out the porn, which is smuggled out to his publisher by a... laundress, played by Kate Winslet. The movie feels almost like a farce until the... (his pens) are taken from... by a doctor (Michael Caine) who plans to... use him of his sickness, and every... grows dark and tragic. You won't see... a collection of actors at work this... — M. Pols. (R: strong sexual content, including dialogue, violence and language.) 2 hours, 3 minutes. A-

...REQUIEM FOR A DREAM": Very, very good but hard to recommend, because... has such a brutal experience... (based on the Hubert Selby Jr. novel of the same name, "Requiem") takes

a hard look at drug addiction. Ellen Burstyn is a lonely Coney Island widow who gets hooked on diet pills. Jared Leto plays her son, who, along with girlfriend Jennifer Connelly and best friend Marlon Wayans, is addicted to heroin. Director Darren Aronofsky ("Pi") plays a series of visual tricks on us; creatively, he's on fire, and so are all four actors. — M. Pols. (NR: extensive drug use, some nudity and some graphic sexuality.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. A-

...SEE SPOT RUN": Yet another smart-animal-meets-clueless-adults movie, this time starring David Arquette. Chimed throughout, the "Spot" in the title is a 100-pound drug-sniffing bull mastiff that's the bane of a mob boss (Paul Sorvino). Spot is being hunted down by two hit men and hides out with a mailman (Arquette). Amazingly, it took three people to come up with the script. Quality is not a strong suit here. — M. Rutter. (PG: crude humor, language and comic violence.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. D

...SERIES 7": Completely shot in television vérité, the film is a diabolically clever sendup of reality shows. The show-within-a-show is "The Contenders," which conscripts six strangers, equips them with an arsenal and sends them out to kill one another. Reigning champ Dawn Lagarda (well-played by Brooke Smith) can win her freedom if she survives the next five contenders, although her pregnancy would seem to complicate the odds. The parody isn't in the details, but hinges on the complexity of everyone involved, including the viewers. It's basically a 21st-century gladiator match where spectators watch from their living-room couches and the gladiators are prisoners not of war, but of the spectacle itself. — V. Chan. (R: violence and language.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. A-

...SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE": A strange, occasionally ravishing movie about the making of the first cinematic vampire film, F.W. Murnau's silent flick "Nosferatu." Don't expect, however, a literal "making-of" film. Director E. Elias Merhige has a little fun with the story, making the "Nosferatu" star (played well by Willem Dafoe) a real vampire. "Shadow of the Vampire" tries, with mixed success, to be scary, funny and profound. It is, for one thing, an extended essay, alternately grating and provocative, on the metaphysics of moviemaking. — A.O. Scott. (R: brief nudity, some drug use and the consumption of large quantities of blood.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B

...SWEET NOVEMBER": Nelson (Keanu Reeves) moves in with Sara (Charlize Theron) for a month of experimental love and life instruction. We understand his motivation, but hers is a bit sketchy, until you notice that the normally hearty Theron is looking a bit too skinny and wan. On the standard movie scale, this is a pretty dreadful movie, borrowing heavily from the more manipulative elements of "Love Story" and the more twisted aspects of the male-female relationship in "Pretty Woman." With a splash of "Dharma & Greg" cuteness. But as escapism, it's

even toned down beyond what we might expect, she's still a fine comedian, and watching her belt out "Back in the U.S.S.R." under duress is memorable. This isn't a comedic roller that strips a strong actress of her much-deserved dignity, thank heavens.

The movie's two most unexpected surprises are Liotta, who hits just the right notes of insane volatility and sleazy sexuality while still managing to be endearing, and Hewitt's performance. Her tiny hourglass body, jammed into skimpy clothing, is very much the star, as perhaps it always will be, but Mirkin has brought out an amusing naughty side in the curvy girl next door. Her first scenes with Lee, in which she's bratty beyond belief, are quite nicely done.

Look for Anne Bancroft in a small part as an IRS agent with a bone to pick with the ladies, and "Saturday Night Live's" Nora Dunn in a wickedly deadpan brief appearance as Tensy's protective housekeeper. Shawn Colvin, Kevin Nealon, and Carrie Fisher also crop up in bit parts. Mirkin actually utilizes them all, unusual in these days when cameos are typically just an inside joke along the lines of Tom Green's stupid appearance in "Charlie's Angels."

it's not funny the way the 1949 musical was.

Then again, the disappointing 1958 feature film starring Mitzi Gaynor in Close's role as Arkansas-born ingenue Lt. Nellie Forbush and Rosanno Brazzi as her beau, French plantation owner Emil DeBeque, was no great shakes, either. Hollywood got R&H right with "The Sound of Music," but not this one.

"South Pacific" is a masterwork best viewed on a stage — in film form, it's now been demonstrated twice, flawed casting, directing and production values only serve to detract from one of the most glorious soundtracks in the history of the American musical stage. Watch for those great songs Monday night, but don't expect to be thrilled by this ABC production.

Finally, Quality: Set those VCR's and Tivos, but set them carefully: One of the finest and best-written TV comedies ever, "SCTV," is now being re-run late weeknights. This expert savaging of the TV industry featured one of the finest ensemble casts ever assembled, and brilliant scripts and performances were the norm. "SCTV" airs weeknights on KRON from 1:35 to 2:05 a.m.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at newsmann@sonic.net)

with an excess of it — a situation in which, sadly, we find ourselves today in too many areas. The saddest thing is how few people recognize it.

"Pacific" Heads South: Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific," the acclaimed pair's most exotic musical, has a special place in my heart. Not only was I growing up in then-unsullied Hawaii when they filmed the movie on Kauai in the 1950s, I later had the privilege of performing its glorious musical score in my high school and university choruses.

So why is Monday night's big ABC TV remake of "South Pacific" starring Glenn Close (KGO-TV, 8 p.m.) ultimately so unsatisfying despite all its wonderful and unforgettable songs?

Partly it's because Harry Connick, Jr., plays male ingenue Lt. Cable as if he were Brando doing "On the Waterfront." It's partly because the actors chosen for the leads, including Close, do not have the voices to project Richard Rodgers' glorious songs like "Some Enchanted Evening," "Younger Than Springtime," and, of course, "Bali Hai."

Plus, this new version is dark and overly invested in the side story about racial intolerance and fighting the Japanese, and it loses the musical's delightful, luminous quality. In short, it's not fun and

and then, in a space of a few hours, you know, with dead certainty, whether the last couple of years of your life have been worthwhile," he said. "In television, it's different. You bring it out and you start to create some goodwill with an audience, and you can shape it. You can mold it as it goes along. You can increase your audience or you can lose your audience, but you have control over it on an ongoing basis."

Many big-time producers, however, are seldom found on the front lines of TV series. They usually help polish the show's concept and then hand the daily chores over to a "showrunner" so they can go off and do other projects. That's fine with network execs, who see the promotional value of tying a show to a marquee name.

Still, Cameron took an intense interest in "Dark Angel," co-writing the pilot with partner Charles Eglee, mapping out future episodes, developing the tone of the series and getting involved in the casting. And while Bruckheimer admits he leaves most of the "CSI" chores to others, he insists that he goes over all script outlines, sends notes to writers and reviews the dailies.

Full circle

Both men also have their hands in future television projects — Cameron with a Fox miniseries based on a series of Mars novels by Kim Stanley Robinson, and Bruckheimer with a new reality series for CBS.

"Television is something I grew up on and loved," Bruckheimer said. "I spent most of my days in front of a box until I was 16 or 17. Now I feel like I'm giving something back."

Other filmmakers are coming full circle in different ways. Noted film director Sidney Lumet ("Network," "Twelve Angry Men"), who got his start in television during the 1950s, has returned to the small screen with the A&E drama series "100 Centre Street," about the New York City night court system.

Meanwhile, Alan Ball, who wrote for TV sitcoms ("Cybill") before winning a screenwriting Oscar last year for "American Beauty," is now developing a distinctive drama series for HBO about a family in the funeral business called "Six Feet Under."

"I think it's very similar in tone to 'American Beauty,'" Ball said. "I feel like I've found a TV show that's very well-suited for my particular view of things, which is kind of dark and cynical and absurd, but at the same time, hopefully compassionate and hopeful."

But while episodic television continues to lure the feature folk, television movies are proving to be an even bigger drawing card. Again, it all comes back to the feature-film studios' obsession with making popcorn movies, which is driving many actors and directors to do smaller, "thinking-person's"

Sorkin isn't afraid to admit that TV's frenetic pace at times intimidates and overwhelms him. "The episodes come so fast," he said, "and it's not like you can call the studio and say, 'I'm blocked. Give me another month.'"

Still, he says he relishes the medium because an episodic series allows him to flesh out concepts and characters gradually and over time. "I really like having a longer relationship with something I write," he said.

That longer relationship, not to mention the lucrative syndication possibilities, also attracted big guns such as Cameron and Jerry Bruckheimer, the man behind CBS' rookie hit "CSI: Crime Scene Investigations."

"TV affords you the opportunity to develop characters (in a way) that you can't do in features. It's novelistic in scale," said Bruckheimer, who produced "Armageddon" and the upcoming epic "Pearl Harbor" for the big screen. "People talk about TV's limitations, and yes, there are some, but in a lot of ways, it's not a limitation. It's an expanded canvas."

Ongoing control

Cameron also enjoys the way television allows creators to forge an ongoing relationship with viewers.

"When I make a film, I may work on it for a year or two years, and when it comes out, it gets slammed into theaters on a Friday

Events

FROM PAGE C3

of William Shakespeare benefiting the California Shakespeare Festival. The evening includes a champagne reception, dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing into the night to the music of Trench 'n' Cheek.

\$175 to \$250 per person. Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, University of California, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 548-3422, ext. 122.

Barney

FROM PAGE C3

out that actors move more freely between both media in England and Ireland than in the States, where "there seems to be an unspoken stigma or snobbishness attached to television actors versus film actors versus theater actors."

"I think it's all nonsense," he said. "Over the next five or 10 years, you'll see even more of a crossover, and it will be to the benefit of everybody concerned. As soon as we stop this ridiculous snobbishness about movies being in some way superior to television, we'll all be a lot better for it."

The stigma is slowly eroding for various reasons. First of all, it's no secret that Hollywood isn't exactly friendly to women who have advanced beyond their 30s. If there's scant work to be had, stars such as Field and Midler are naturally going to peer down other avenues.

"There are so many wonderful actresses of varying ages who are not working because there's just not enough work," Field said. "So you go anywhere you can go to do your work. And if you're lucky, you get to do things that you've never done before. The only way to keep going in this business is to keep finding new places in yourself, and as you get older, the places keep changing."

TV more intriguing

But women aren't the only ones feeling the squeeze in Hollywood. The fact is, feature film production at most major studios has declined in recent years, and the movies that are getting made are more formulated and market-driven than ever. As studios chase the next big blockbuster, a lot of quality actors, as well as fine scripts, are falling through the cracks.

"There are wonderful writers working in television, superb writers," Byrne said. "And it seems to me that the complexity of issues that are being dealt with in television are far more interesting than the formulas that most movies allow."

Field, who got her start in television as "Gidget" and "The Flying Nun" before going on to win two Oscars, agrees with that assessment. "Because I came from television, I've never had the feeling that it's something not for me," she said. "And I honestly think that some of today's most interesting dramatic work is being done in television. They're writing really compelling and intimate character studies and edgy stories. They certainly weren't doing these kinds of stories when I was doing TV."

And good writing can only help to enhance television's credibility factor among the filmmaking community. When someone like Aaron Sorkin ("A Few Good Men") leaves the feature world to create such critically acclaimed series as "The West Wing" and the short-lived "Sports Night," it tends to turn some heads.

Sorkin isn't afraid to admit that TV's frenetic pace at times intimidates and overwhelms him. "The episodes come so fast," he said, "and it's not like you can call the studio and say, 'I'm blocked. Give me another month.'"

Still, he says he relishes the medium because an episodic series allows him to flesh out concepts and characters gradually and over time. "I really like having a longer relationship with something I write," he said.

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Berkeley Art Center — Nylan Jeung and David Lippenberger, through April 7. An exhibit of paintings. Free. Wednesday through Sunday.

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That longer relationship, not to mention the lucrative syndication possibilities, also attracted big guns such as Cameron and Jerry Bruckheimer, the man behind CBS' rookie hit "CSI: Crime Scene Investigations."

"TV affords you the opportunity to develop characters (in a way) that you can't do in features. It's novelistic in scale," said Bruckheimer, who produced "Armageddon" and the upcoming epic "Pearl Harbor" for the big screen. "People talk about TV's limitations, and yes, there are some, but in a lot of ways, it's not a limitation. It's an expanded canvas."

Ongoing control

Cameron also enjoys the way television allows creators to forge an ongoing relationship with viewers.

"When I make a film, I may work on it for a year or two years, and when it comes out, it gets slammed into theaters on a Friday

and then, in a space of a few hours, you know, with dead certainty, whether the last couple of years of your life have been worthwhile," he said. "In television, it's different. You bring it out and you start to create some goodwill with an audience, and you can shape it. You can mold it as it goes along. You can increase your audience or you can lose your audience, but you have control over it on an ongoing basis."

Many big-time producers, however, are seldom found on the front lines of TV series. They usually help polish the show's concept and then hand the daily chores over to a "showrunner" so they can go off and do other projects. That's fine with network execs, who see the promotional value of tying a show to a marquee name.

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Full circle

Both men also have their hands in future television projects — Cameron with a Fox miniseries based on a series of Mars novels by Kim Stanley Robinson, and Bruckheimer with a new reality series for CBS.

"Television is something I grew up on and loved," Bruckheimer said. "I spent most of my days in front of a box until I was 16 or 17. Now I feel like I'm giving something back."

Other filmmakers are coming full circle in different ways. Noted film director Sidney Lumet ("Network," "Twelve Angry Men"), who got his start in television during the 1950s, has returned to the small screen with the A&E drama series "100 Centre Street," about the New York City night court system.

Meanwhile, Alan Ball, who wrote for TV sitcoms ("Cybill") before winning a screenwriting Oscar last year for "American Beauty," is now developing a distinctive drama series for HBO about a family in the funeral business called "Six Feet Under."

"I think it's very similar in tone to 'American Beauty,'" Ball said. "I feel like I've found a TV show that's very well-suited for my particular view of things, which is kind of dark and cynical and absurd, but at the same time, hopefully compassionate and hopeful."

But while episodic television continues to lure the feature folk, television movies are proving to be an even bigger drawing card. Again, it all comes back to the feature-film studios' obsession with making popcorn movies, which is driving many actors and directors to do smaller, "thinking-person's"

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See EVENTS, Page C12

films for television.

Attracting stars

At times, you can see this movement at work on the major networks, which have slowly distanced themselves from the cheesy "disease-of-the-week" and "women-in jeopardy" formulas of the past. Elisabeth Shue, for example, recently appeared in a delicately rendered adaptation of "Amy and Isabelle" for ABC. It came in fourth in the Nielsen ratings.

But the trend is even more prevalent on the major cable networks, including Showtime, and especially HBO. The latter is the dominant player in the industry, priding itself on its artist-friendly environment and a reputation for quality. In the past two years, performers such as Halle Berry, Sharon Stone, Richard Dreyfuss, Andy Garcia and John Malkovich have appeared in HBO originals.

"One of our goals has always been to reach out to the finest filmmaking talent in the world and make HBO a place where they could make the sort of movies that couldn't be made elsewhere," said Colin Callender, president, HBO Films.

A prime example is "Wit," which debuts Saturday. The movie, based on the 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning stage drama by Margaret Edson, stars Emma Thompson ("Sense and Sensibility") and was directed by Mike Nichols ("The Graduate," "Silkwood"). "Wit" was invited to the recent Berlin Film Festival.

"I had the best time making this film that I've had in many years," said Nichols, who raved about not having to concern himself with an opening weekend or studio marketers.

"Doing this film at HBO allowed us the freedom to be true to the piece — following its reality, keeping it intimate."

Mantle, Ruth ... Branagh

Also on tap later this year on HBO are "Dinner With Friends," the comedy-drama that won a Pulitzer last year, and "61*," about the pursuit of Babe Ruth's home run record by Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle. "Dinner" was directed by Norman Jewison and "61*" was helmed by Billy Crystal. In May, HBO will premiere "Conspiracy," a drama starring Kenneth Branagh and Stanley Tucci.

To be sure, feature filmmakers aren't always enamored with the television world. You'll hear them gripe about the faster pace, the tighter shooting schedules and the generally smaller budgets. Mostly, though, they're finding that the transition isn't such a big deal.

"To me, the process is pretty much the same," said "Wit" star Thompson. "I mean, you're working with a 35-mm camera. It's the same thing."

You can reach Chuck Barney via e-mail at cbarney@cctimes.com.

Comedy

FROM PAGE C3

than com was supposed to be their first joint project, but Max isn't ready to let Page go, so she persuades her to do one last job. They head down to a wealthy Palm Beach to pick their next mark.

Once there, they light on William Zussy (Gene Hackman), an aging billionaire with a cigarette lodged firmly in his mouth at all times. Hackman seems to be having a deliciously good time playing Tensy as one of the most odious characters imaginable, an insatiable, crude old man whose remaining purpose in life is to be an advocate for smoking. He's been plagued with liver spots, his nose is red and his teeth are yellow, they're brown.

The hitch in the women's plan, beyond how unpalatable Tensy is, is that Page meets a rumped young bartender, Jack (Jason Lee of "Chasing Amy" and "Mumford"), and falls for him, in absolute opposition to the rules of the con. Their relationship consists mostly of her walking into his bar and locking onto his mouth without so much as a hello, then staring off again without explanation. So his sudden love for her is

not exactly realistic, particularly given that Page lies to him every time she sees him, and he knows it.

But Lee's strange combination of cynicism and sincerity makes the odd pairing work. He also gets nice backup from his low-key friends: Linda, a waitress at his bar, and barfly Bill (Sarah Silverman and Zach Galifianakis).

"There's something weird about her," Bill observes after Page blows through the bar, puts a mouthhook on Jack and then departs one more time.

"That's what I liked about her," Jack says.

"Me too," Linda says wistfully. These are small moments, but they add up, keeping the movie's quirky energy rolling along. There are things you see coming, such as Page's inevitable crisis of character over using and abusing Jack, but for the most part, when the doorbell rings in "Heartbreakers," you don't know who will be there, although you can assume he or she will be funny.

Unfortunately, Weaver is oddly muted these days, as if she's acting several notches below her usual emotional energy. She seems drained, or almost sedated. She's best, and liveliest, when she takes on the Russian persona of Olga to seduce Tensy. But

with an excess of it — a situation in which, sadly, we find ourselves today in too many areas. The saddest thing is how few people recognize it.

"Pacific" Heads South: Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific," the acclaimed pair's most exotic musical, has a special place in my heart. Not only was I growing up in then-unsullied Hawaii when they filmed the movie on Kauai in the 1950s, I later had the privilege of performing its glorious musical score in my high school and university choruses.

So why is Monday night's big ABC TV remake of "South Pacific" starring Glenn Close (KGO-TV, 8 p.m.) ultimately so unsatisfying despite all its wonderful and unforgettable songs?

Partly it's because Harry Connick, Jr., plays male ingenue Lt. Cable as if he were Brando doing "On the Waterfront." It's partly because the actors chosen for the leads, including Close, do not have the voices to project Richard Rodgers' glorious songs like "Some Enchanted Evening," "Younger Than Springtime," and, of course, "Bali Hai."

Plus, this new version is dark and overly invested in the side story about racial intolerance and fighting the Japanese, and it loses the musical's delightful, luminous quality. In short, it's not fun and

and then, in a space of a few hours, you know, with dead certainty, whether the last couple of years of your life have been worthwhile," he said. "In television, it's different. You bring it out and you start to create some goodwill with an audience, and you can shape it. You can mold it as it goes along. You can increase your audience or you can lose your audience, but you have control over it on an ongoing basis."

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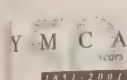
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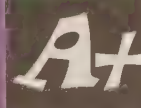
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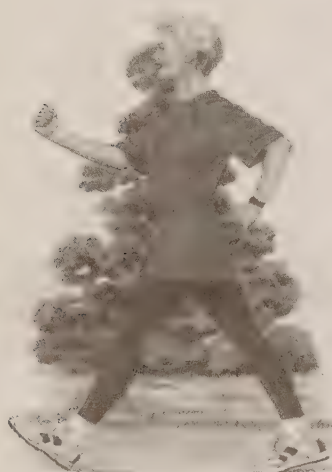
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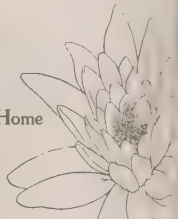
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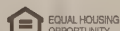


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--PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

LEGAL NOTICE

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
The name of the _____
I HAVE WORKED TOURS &
CRUISES is located at 5949
_____ St. in El Cerrito CA
94530
This business is hereby _____

1. The undersigned, being the
 owners of the above described
 real estate, do hereby certify that
 this business is conducted
 by an individual,
 Silvana Leite Santane
 who is the sole owner and
 operator of the business.
 The undersigned do hereby
 certify that the County Clerk
 of Contra Costa on the date indicated
 by file stamp above
 has received and commenced on
 March 15, 2001
 Expires March 15, 2006
 The Journal #0586
 Published March 23, 30, April
 6, 13, 2001

NOTICE OF
 PETITION
 TO ADMINISTER
 ESTATE OF:
FRED W TOLLEN
 aka
FRED WHITE
TOLLEN
 CASE NUMBER

2541-43-5

To all heirs, beneficiaries, legatees, contingent legatees, creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the estate of the late FRED W. TOLLEN, Sr., deceased, I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the PETITION FOR PROBATE of the will of the late FRED W. TOLLEN, Sr., has been filed by Life O'Connell and Margaret E. O'Connell, co-petitioners, of the County of California, County of Los Angeles, California, and that the PETITION FOR PROBATE of the will of the late FRED W. TOLLEN, Sr., requests that Life O'Connell and Margaret E. O'Connell be appointed as personal representatives of the estate of the decedent and that the court order the decedent's will admitted to probate. The court requests the decedent's will, and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate and that the court order codicils be admitted to probate. Codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests a decree under the administration of the estate of the late FRED W. TOLLEN, Sr., and that the court authorize the personal representative to take any action necessary to carry out the approval. Before taking any further important actions, the personal representative will be required to obtain the approval of the court.

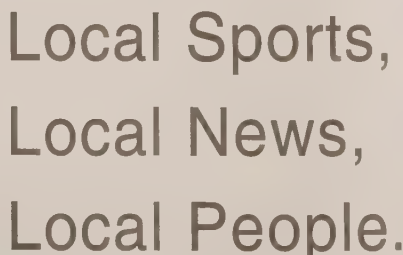
I, the undersigned, a duly appointed administrator of the estate of the above named decedent, do hereby certify that the above named person files an objection to the appointment of the undersigned as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent. I have good cause why the court should not grant the application for the appointment of the undersigned as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 18, 1941, at 9:30 a.m. in Dept. 13, located at the County Court Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

I, the undersigned, do hereby object to the granting of the petition on the grounds that the undersigned should appear at the hearing, and the undersigned has communications with the court before the hearing. Your appearance at the hearing is required by the person or persons by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the estate of the above named decedent, you may file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the person or persons appointed by the court within four months from the date of the first issuance of letters of administration of the estate of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims is extended to six months from the date of the first issuance of letters of administration of the estate of the California Probate Code.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above named person files an objection to the appointment of the undersigned as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent. I have good cause why the court should not grant the application for the appointment of the undersigned as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent.



Our neighborhood

Call 510 339-4040 for subscription information

Flying south when the empty nest refills

When our second daughter moved into her own apartment, Mary Ann and I became official empty-nesters. Excepting visits from Amanda who lives close by, we are each other's sole company and it's to our liking. Personally, I would like to think Amanda drops in for our dazzling dinner table conversation, but I fear just having food, plus a washer and dryer — three items missing in her apartment — are the real attractions.

Part of the fun of being e-nesters is your home, top to bottom, is yours to play with. One daughter's bedroom quickly became Mary Ann's art studio, the other's is now a guest room that would put a luxury inn to shame. One phone line was removed, and the other is blessedly silent.

Then our oldest daughter and her main squeeze moved to the Bay Area from San Diego. Now our blissfully indulgent routine is temporarily on hold and our nest has taken on a vastly different look. The luxury guest room is headquarters for the miscellany of Kelly and Matt while they look for an apartment. And what that room won't hold is stored in Mary Ann's art studio and the half of the garage that used to be my parking spot.

Hey, am I complaining? Certainly, there are times I bristle at the trifling inconveniences such an arrangement causes. Plus, this is the first time Mary Ann and I have had to deal with an adult child in residence. We quickly learned that even though we are her parents, the actual parenting is done. We gave her roots and we gave her wings. Mission accomplished. But, she still remains "our



MIKE CLEARY

The Food and Travel Enthusiast

child," and it's hard to shake the concern that comes with the territory.

There are three reasons, though, why this interruption is a terrific thing for us. Firstly, I love Kelly dearly and it's a pleasure to have her in residence. Secondly, Matt is the coolest guy I know. He's so cool he can have my 15-year-old nephew hang on his every word even though he's twice Brian's age. Thirdly, Matt is a chef by profession, and his cooking is utterly sublime.

Preparing an occasional dinner for us is the kids' way of repaying us for turning over part of our nest to them. Now, Mary Ann is a superb cook. But, even she will admit there's a big leap from good cook to chef, particularly a talented one like Matt.

I don't cook, but I have learned something from these recent gastronomic adventures — cooks are quiet and chefs are noisy. Mary Ann is a veritable stealth cook compared to Matt. He heads for the kitchen and suddenly it sounds like there's a dozen skateboarders doing five-o grinds. (I am told grinds are very noisy maneuvers.)

I also learned chefs can work with anything you have in stock and turn it into absolute magic, even when the cupboard, at least in my estimation, are bare. Also, chefs love to tell you what you're eating.

Nightly, Mary Ann and I will put some music on and sit down to dinner.

It never dawns on Mary Ann to describe the dish, and I have never asked, "What is this?" But, with a chef, you get a play-by-play that would thrill Julia Child. Recently, the salad was described as containing "hand-torn butter lettuce." We will really miss Matt's feasts. However, our loss will be a Bay Area restaurant's gain. I'll keep you posted. Meantime, we are going to take advantage of having two built-in house and dog sitters by hitting the road and doing some Southern California exploring. We are first headed to Solvang for their annual weekend celebration of food, namely delicious pastries and desserts. Then it's on to the nearby Santa Barbara wine country to check out towns like Los Olivos and Santa Ynez. Our final stop is the new ocean side Bacara Resort and Spa. I'll report back on it all.

A thought just occurred to me. Perhaps, when it's Amanda's turn to check into the old family nest, she will bring an apprentice plumber with her. Then we can finally get that rattling shower pipe in the downstairs bathroom fixed.

Cheers.

Mike Cleary's column appears every other week in this newspaper. He and his wife, Mary Ann, co-host "The Food and Travel Enthusiasts" radio program at 10 a.m. Sundays on KABL, 960 AM. Readers can e-mail Mike at mcleary@960kabl.com.

Events

FROM PAGE C5

Creative Growth Art Center — "Incredibles," through April 20. A group exhibit of visually delectable food imagery. Free. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 355 24th St., Oakland. (510) 836-2340.

Emery Station — "The Emeryville Project," closing March 30. An exhibit of works by Jean Collier Hurley. Free. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 5858 Horton St., Emeryville.

Graduate Theological Union — "Scenes from the Song of Songs/Images from the Book of Blessings," through May 2. An exhibit of oil paintings by Marcia Falk. "Bernard Matisse: Illuminated Manuscripts and Paintings," through Aug. 8. A mid-career retrospective exhibit. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Rd., Berkeley. (510) 649-2541.

Holy Names College Kennedy Art Center Gallery — "Fresh Air: Landscapes and Still Lifes by John Felter," through April 12. Free. Wednesday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; CLOSED MARCH 24 THROUGH APRIL 1, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 436-1457.

Kaiser Center Mezzanine Gallery — "Exhibition 2001," through April 27. A gallery exhibit of painting, collage, prints, photography and mixed media by 14 award-winning East Bay women artists.

Free. Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. (510) 569-4810.

Kala Art Institute — "Contemporary Photography," closing March 30. An exhibit of works by various artists. Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Workshop Media Center Gallery, 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. (510) 549-2977.

Laney College Art Gallery — "The James Baldwin Series," March 26 through April 26. Photographs that re-examine the nation's image of the celebrated African-American author. Opening Reception, April 4, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free. Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 900 Fallon, Tower Bldg., Oakland. (510) 464-3586.

Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery — Recent Works by Jon Rubin, closing March 31. An installation and exhibition of drawings by Oakland-based artist Jon Rubin. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 942 Clay St., Oakland. (510) 625-1350.

Mills College Art Museum — "Senior Exhibition 2001," March 28 through April 18. An exhibition of mixed media works by the college's art students. Free. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2164.

Oakland Public Library — "Automobile Racing in Alameda County," through May 15. An exhibit on Alameda County's era of auto racing and racing, from the first Emeryville race in 1909 to the midjet races held in Oakland's Exposition Building in the 1950s and 60s.

Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Berkeley. (510) 845-1100.

Quilt Shop Gallery — "May's Memory Lane," through May 15. May's Memory Lane. Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Berkeley. (510) 845-1100.

Red Oak Realty Gallery — "May's Memory Lane," through May 15. May's Memory Lane. Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Berkeley. (510) 845-1100.

Royal Court Gallery — "Creations," closing April 1. An exhibit of painting, collage, photography and bas-relief. Free. Daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 2380 Main Blvd., Oakland. (510) 238-0355.

Sculpture Group Gallery — "The Spirit of Spring," through April 28. An exhibit featuring works by Mary Ann Cleary and Caroline Peters. Free. Daily, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Hawk Plaza Circle, Dan. 253-0355.

Elihu M. Harris State Gallery — "Dialogue," through April 13. An exhibit of works by Mary Ann Cleary and Patricia Morrison. Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alameda County. (510) 238-6952.

Calendar

FROM PAGE C11

port. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application, interview and more information.

Volunteer at the Crucible, 1035 Murray St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an educational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 843-5511 or e-mail crucible@ups.net for more information on how to get involved.

There is an immediate need for Home Delivered Meal volunteers at the "Open House" Senior Center to deliver noon day meals to the homebound in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex. For more information, call Nichols at 215-4342.

Breast Cancer Action, an advocacy and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week, are available. Call 415-243-9301 for additional information.

Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center needs off-site volunteers to help

with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three-and-a-half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those wishing to volunteer should call 466-5663 or 548-6933.

Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and Escort Volunteers. During the winter months volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

La Pena Cultural Center needs volunteers with technical sound skills. The commitment is two programs per month. Call Kahlil 849-2568, ext. 11 for more information.

The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. To receive an application and information call 268-7297. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed.

Deals so astounding, dining with your mouth wide-open may be unavoidable.



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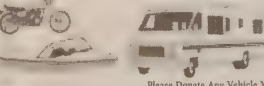
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Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

March 23, 2001

Section D

Truck Talk Ford Lighting trucks give new meaning to the word 'hauling' [D3]

Drive, She Said

By Denise McCluggage

To buy or not to buy: that is the question.

A friend is faced with a decision, not immediately but in about nine months when his car lease is up. He has begun to stew about it already. He has several options: buy the car for its residual value, drop the car at the dealer and wave bye-bye, or negotiate with the leaseholder and make an offer for something less than the car's value.

Why would a dealer do that? Saves them time and trouble and the need to re-sell the car in what seems to be a shrinking market. So my friend is debating whether to buy his 3-year-old car or get a new car at the same price.

Overstating residual values was common three years ago. New leases are much more optimistic — too many leasing companies have taken baths in those inflated residuals. A high residual means lower monthly payments, so that was good for us when you got the lease. But now as the lease expires, that high residual works against you: that's the price you are asked



MOTOR MATTERS

THIS HOT-TICKET hardtop convertible from Lexus is designed for a quiet ride with the top off.

Get noticed — drive the 2002 Lexus SC 430

■ Sporty and surprisingly quiet convertible

Want to go from zero to 60 miles per hour in under six seconds in an exciting retractable-top convertible? Then the Lexus 2002 SC 430 is the car for you. This attractive hardtop convertible turned a lot of heads during my test-drive. An eye-catcher, this Lexus is in exceptional demand. Lexus has allocated 12,000 SC 430 sales in the United States for 2001, and 9,000 are al-

ready sold. These cars have just arrived in the United States, and they're sold!

Believe me, the SC 430 is a hot-ticket item that sells for about \$58,455. Fully loaded: \$61,295.

The architects have designed forward motion into this vehicle with the use of a low profile grille and bulging muscular bumper. The headlamps appear as eyes on a face that means business. The ap-

Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane

pearance is enhanced with sporty five-spoke, 18-inch alloy wheels, plus the illusion of the car becoming wider

as the lines run toward the rear. By holding one button, the driver can convert the car from/to either a hardtop or a convertible. A rear deck lid opens wide, and either the top goes up or down.

Then the deck lid returns to a tight seal. Regardless of whether the roof is up or

down, the SC 430 is stunning. That's about the best word I can think of to describe it. Lexus loaded the SC 430 with both thoughtful features and mechanical niceties.

For example, a small, unobtrusive wind-screen behind the seats deflects the air that whips over the top and back toward the passengers. As a result, compared to most other convertibles, the interior noise level is much quieter with the top down.

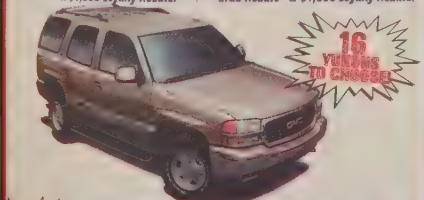
See KEANE, Page D2

See DRIVE, Page D2



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Mom restores 1957 Ford Thunderbirds for her daughter

The first of what would become known as "baby birds" burst upon the 1955 automotive scene in the form of a two-seat Ford Thunderbird. Ford's response to the Chevrolet Corvette had a long engine hood and a short deck.

The 1955 Thunderbird attracted buyers by the droves. Designers maintained the company imprint on the new "personal car" by using standard Ford taillights and backup light assemblies, as well as headlight bezels. Inside the cockpit standard Ford handles, knobs and gauges were used. There was no doubt this car was a Ford, but a Ford like no other that had come before.

Since the dual exhaust pipes exited through the body above the bumper and the spare tire was in the already-small trunk, complaints were received about the lack of trunk space. The 1956 Thunderbird addressed those problems by having the dual exhaust pipes exit through slots at the corners of the bumper and hanging the spare tire off the rear in a Continental kit. In autoland, improvements came each year.

The third and final "baby bird" differed from the first two. The 1957 Thunderbird received a front bumper/grille combination. The trunk-space/spare-tire problem was solved by placing the spare back inside the trunk and enlarging the trunk by extending it to the rear. Canted tail fins accented the lengthened deck. The dual exhaust pipes still exited through a restyled bumper for 1957.

The next year, when the four-seat "square birds" were introduced, the "baby birds" thundered into history.

Classic Classics

By Vern Parker

A decade later, Eileen Triplett's mother, Pat, bought the first of her 14 "baby birds" and brought it home to Bonita. Trips in Thunderbird caravans became commonplace, as did the parade of Thunderbirds in her mother's life. Her mother became quite adept at restoring the old Thunderbirds.

"One of those Thunderbirds," Triplett recalls, "was the first car I drove over 90." In 1990, Triplett's mother bought a red 1957 Thunderbird that had seen better days. Without hesitation, Pat pulled the Fordomatic transmission and 312-cubic-inch V-8, and sent them out to be overhauled.

Everything that was bent was straightened, and anything that was rusty was cut out and replaced with new steel. By 1996, the old red T-bird was a gleaming white with a black and white interior. It wasn't on the maiden run, but soon thereafter, that Eileen Triplett's mom, driving the fresh T-bird bent the right front corner. After much gnashing of teeth, Pat decided to do a frame-off restoration. It wasn't that difficult since the drivetrain had already been done. A year and a half later the Thunderbird was better than new.

Of course, the restoration cost more than the \$3,408 base price it sold for in 1957. The 15-foot, 5-inch-long car weighs 3,145 pounds and rides on a 102-inch wheelbase supported by 7.50x14-inch tires. Ground clearance is 5.9 inches, and the car



CANTED TAIL FINS and wheel skirts mark the last of Ford's 'baby' Thunderbirds. They were built in 1957

stands only 2 inches more than 4 feet high.

The canted tail fins, which end over the 8-inch-diameter wagon-

wheel taillights with a backup light in the center, actually start on the door with the leading edge of the fin wrapping around the door handle.

All the "baby birds" sported fender skirts, a feature not normally associated with sporty cars.

Without them, however, the cars seem incomplete. A chrome gravel guard on the leading edge helps protect the paint on the skirt. The happy surprise for Eileen Triplett came Christmas of 1999, when she opened the gift from her mother. Inside were the keys to the white 1957 Thunderbird! Eileen didn't know how popular she was until the 1957 Thunderbird was rolled off the truck. The car is a people magnet, especially when that distinctive rumble comes

tump, tump, tump. The rumble has even driven a few mobile shows, and for many people, a modern-appearing car with absolutely no close-up work to her job. The down side is that it suffers on the road of the building, and it's not a lot when it comes to

Drive

FROM PAGE D1

to pay to assume ownership.

What to do? Check the market to see what your car — as much alike as possible — is actually going for in the real world. If the average price being paid is substantially less than the stated residual value, then don't buy the car. Certainly not at that price.

Either negotiate with the lessor for a price nearer the going rate or exercise your right to walk away, unencumbered. Walking away can be freeing, at least for the moment, but that leaves you without a car. You need to either do without, or buy or lease another vehicle.

Or buy an interim used car. You have one disadvantage: leases are less attractive now than they were, thanks to this matter of greater realism in stating residual values. But the current market has advantages for you, too. Competition is particularly stiff with excellent new products on the horizon. And the stock market is shaky.

What with all the financial jabbering about everything from market adjustment to the "R" word, dealers with inventories to reduce are likely to offer some enticing deals. Take stock. Ask yourself how you feel about your car.

Would losing it be like sending your dog off to live with relatives on a farm? What condition is it in? Is it due for an expensive service? New

tires? Have a mechanic evaluate it as if you were buying it from a stranger, not yourself.

My friend loves his car, including the color, the way it looks, the way it goes. So a no-brainer, right? Buy it! But no. On long trips — rare, but still a possibility — the tightness of the cabin leg space bothers him.

He has to get out and walk around frequently to avoid sleep-bothering pains in his leg. Hey, simple. Dump it! But then he appreciates the sound of the engine, the crisp turn in, the looks he gets from people who know he is in a special machine.

So what is he going to do? First, he'll try another car he's read about that might satisfy all those "drivably" cravings and, yet, might have a wider space for his legs. If it does, and if

he can arrange a lofty position in the waiting line, then that simplifies matters. The price is about the same. He'll be cutting-edge new again and for nearly the same money.

But what if the space is no better than that in his current car? Then he'll collect figures about sale prices and make an offer to the lessor. "Hey, I'd like to take this three-year-old car off your hands, but at its actual value X, not the stated residual."

A few thousand saved can help cope with the leg problem. How, you may well ask, did he choose a car that gives him leg cramps on long trips? That question answers itself. Who takes "long trips" on test-drives? Which brings us to another matter: really getting to know a car before you sign for it.

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

This environment allows for conversation at normal speaking level. With the top up, the interior is very quiet and ideal for listening to the nine speaker Mark Levinson sound system that produces excellent quality sound. One unique feature of the Mark Levinson is that the sound readjusts its equalization parameters depending upon an open or closed top.

The interior features unusual colors of wood and leather. Navigational and audio systems are located behind burl walnut or beautiful maple doors. Lexus people said that the leather, which is made in Germany, is called "Comfort Nappa," and the interior comfort was a top priority. Mechanically, the car is one of the best I've driven.

The 32-valve, 4.3-liter V-8 engine produces 300 horsepower. It's both fast and smooth. The car is well balanced, and the handling is unusually quick and precise. The car has all the latest features pertaining to

safety, most notably yaw control. It is loaded with numerous conveniences, including two-position memory seats, tilt/telescopic steering, plus passenger-side power seats. The SC 430 is first class all the way. This vehicle is a compact 2+2 with only 178-inch overall length. The back seat is useless. There isn't any legroom.

Should the driver and front seat passengers attempt to move their seats forward to provide rear legroom, they would be putting themselves dangerously close to the airbag should it explode. The only practical use of the rear seat is to store packages or golf clubs. The trunk doesn't have much storage space either. Those who opt for run-flat tires would increase the storage, as there would be no need to carry a spare tire.

There's another downside for those who become among the first to own the SC 430. They might get more attention than they expect. I know. I received an usual amount of inquiries during my brief test-drive.

Eventually, of course, those questions will diminish as Lexus sales of this car spirals upward. And they will.

Specifications Lexus 2002 SC 430 convertible

VEHICLE TYPE	4-passenger, 2-door 2+2 convertible
BASE PRICE	\$58,455 (as tested: \$61,295)
ENGINE TYPE	V-8, 4-cam, 32-valve w/EFI
DISPLACEMENT	4.3-liter
HORSEPOWER (net)	300 at 5600 rpm
TORQUE (lb-ft)	325 at 3400 rpm
TRANSMISSION	5-speed elect. automatic
WHEELBASE	103 in. 2616 mm
TREAD (front/rear)	.61 / 60 in. 1524 / 1549 mm
OVERALL LENGTH	178 in. 4521 mm
OVERALL WIDTH	72 in. 1828 mm
HEIGHT	53 in. 1346 mm
TURNING (curb-to-curb)	.35 ft. 10.6 m
CURB WEIGHT	3,840 lbs. 1741 kg
FUEL CAPACITY	19 gals. 72 L
EPA MILEAGE RATING	18 city, 23 highway
ASSEMBLY PLANT	Higashifuji, Japan
STRONG FEATURE	Handling, styling
WEAK FEATURE	Storage, rear legroom

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Flashy Ford Lightning trucks

Flashy Ford Lightning trucks, poking out from the road toting produce to build a truck, is the image I had of pickups years ago.

But the world of pickups has changed, and for a group of Ford enthusiasts, "hauling" has taken on a different meaning.

A Special Vehicle Team has developed a high-performance, reg- ular short-wheelbase F-150 pickup that leaves the boring work- ing image in its wake, like an F-16 fighter plane past a Piper Cub.

The 2001 SVT F-150 Lightning has a functional cargo box, it's got a flip side that lures buyers based on buyer.

The pickup is simple: to drive the pickup, production pickup on the road — one that'll spank most pas- senger cars.

Lightnings have been fast from the get-go, but the newest version pushes the limits of macho for a pro- duction truck.

As with the previous model, mus- cle is supplied by a supercharged, aluminum, SOHC, 5.4-liter Triton V8.

The news that strikes a bull's-eye on Lightning target buyers is a power boost. Lightning charges into 4,780 rpm and 450 foot-pounds of torque at 3,250 rpm.

This is a sizable increase of 20 horsepower and 10 foot-pounds of torque.

One might expect this hot-rod en- gine to produce a thunderous roar through its three-inch, twin-outlet exhaust pipes, but Lightning's power- plant is surprisingly smooth and quiet.

At full throttle there's a throaty- ness and the distinct whine of the supercharger getting down to busi- ness. Lightning's V-8 does its talking with eye-popping performance fig- ures.

The new 0-60-mph time is 5.8 sec- onds, a notable reduction from the 2000 model's 6.2-second time.

In a quarter-mile stretch, the time drops from 14.6 seconds at 97 mph to 13 seconds at 100 mph. Lightning's tremendous off-the-line kick is a big confidence booster when merging into freeway traffic or racing out of a mailbox to enter a lane.

Nowhere on the speedometer will you find drivers feel cheated when on-tap power is needed. The available transmission is a four- speed automatic with traditional col- umn-mounted shifter.

Lined with the monstrous pow-

erplant, this transmission — built with heavy-duty components from Super Duty units — feels efficient.

Grabbing the pavement during these power blasts are specially de- veloped 295/45ZR-18 Goodyear Eagle F1-GS tires. This hefty set of rub- ber is made with advanced F1 GS compound, formulated to increase grip.

Centered in these tires are 18-by- 9.5-inch, cast aluminum-alloy wheels. The five-spoke design is stunning, with a protruding, sharper-edged ma- chined look.

Great wheels are among a list of features giving Lightning sizzling looks to match its performance.

Exterior changes for 2001 set it apart from predecessors. All lights — headlamps, taillamps, foglamps and center high-mounted stoplamp — are redesigned. A sure way to distinguish a 2001 Lightning from others is its bold taillamps.

Big red gundrops have been re- placed by clear lenses — finely streaked with horizontal lines — that expose double-barreled bulbs.

Other 2001 styling signatures are the horizontal, billit-bar fillers that replace the familiar honeycomb texture in the grille and lower front fas- cia openings.

Body-colored ground effects — front and rear fascias, and rocker panels — continue to wrap the ve- hicle. Working with the ground effects to create street-rod flair is a lower- ing of one-half inch up front and two inches in the rear.

That feeling of driving something special is echoed with an interior de- sign that straddles a realm between truck and race car. Like a regular F-150 XLT or Lariat model, the front seat is a 40/60 bench.

In the Lightning's case, this bench is modified to resemble race-style buckets. Driver and outboard pas- sengers benefit from seatbacks with aggressive lateral bolstering.

Even the cushions incorporate side bolsters that work with backrest supports to cradle the body during aggressive driving.

In the middle position, a fold- down center console/armrest serves as a backrest. With the console/arm- rest dropped, the bucket-seat effect is especially strong.

Even though a supercharged ani- mal is unleashed beneath the hood, all is civilized and comfortable within Lightning's cab. Seats are firm, as is the suspension, but ride quality is high.

Ford credits monotube, gas- charged Bilstein shock absorbers at all four wheels with this extraordi-

Truck Talk

By Tim Spell

nary capability of absorbing irreg- ularities without sacrificing han- dling.

Lightning's high-performance technology comes at a \$32,300 price tag, including destination charge. The only option is a \$150 black, soft tonneau cover.

This cover is a great idea; it looks sleek. Some contend it lessens drag, and it hides a portion of the truck that's low priority for a forward- thinking Lightning owner.

Tim Spell is automotive writer for the Houston Chronicle Cars & Trucks section.



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Page D4

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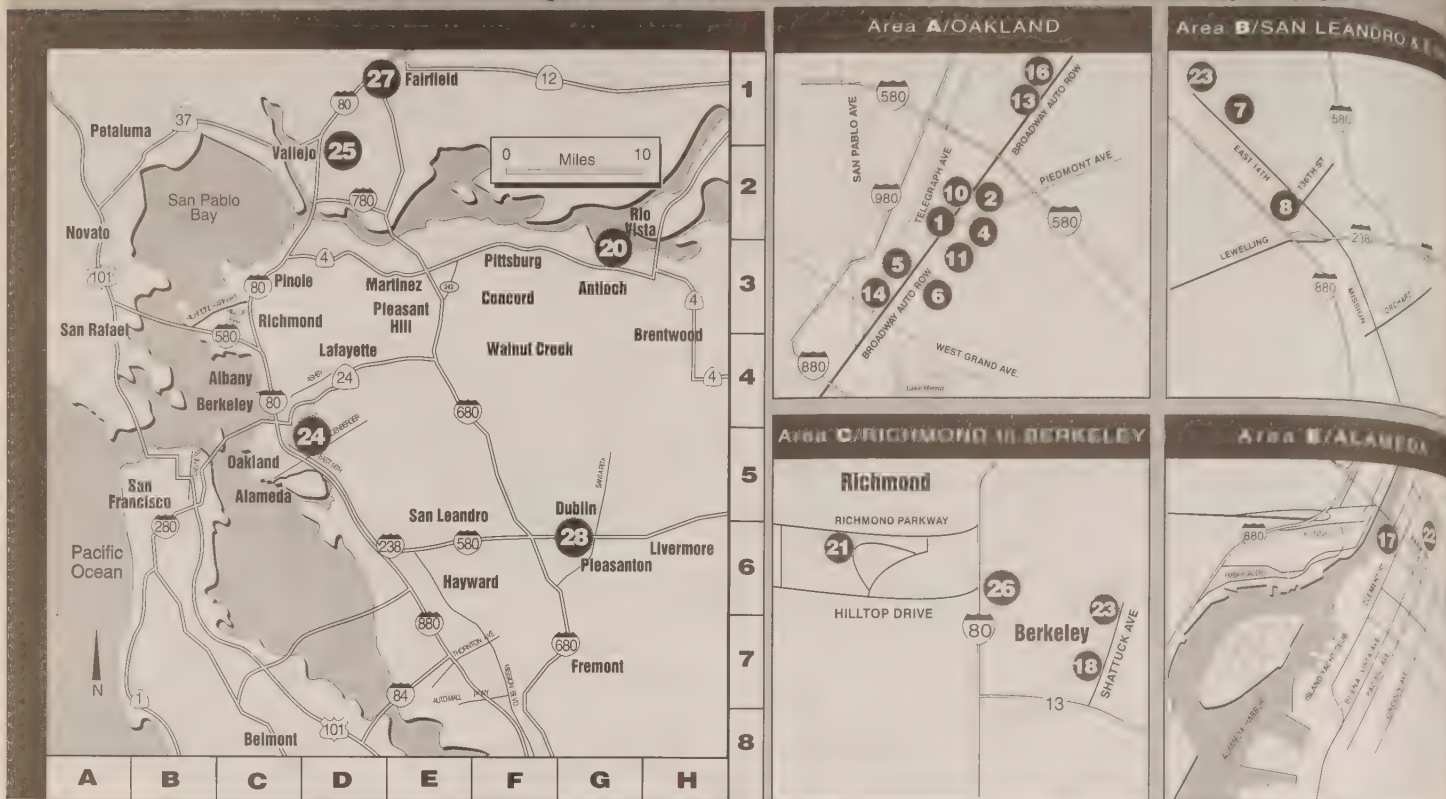
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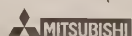
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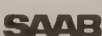
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Dacod Laser Marketing is looking for an individual to join our Accounting Department. Must have a minimum of 2 years computer literate in positive communications. Please send resume to: Apec-Team, c/o Rickenbacker, 34550 S. FA, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33650-4279.

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Plymouth Mutual has an opening for the following position in our Corte Madera, CA and Dublin, CA offices.

Loan Processor
An organized and motivated individual to join our team. The position involves evaluating processing, conferencing, and assisting applicants will have a minimum of 2 years entry experience, as well as strong customer service and computer skills. Qualified candidates may send an application packet to: Western National Mortgage, P.O. Box 1000, San Jose, CA 95128.

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Current Openings Week of March 19, 2001

JOB CLASSIFICATION	SALARY	CLOSING DATE	This information sheet
			<p>COOK For Infant Center, 7:30am-12:30pm. Call Kathy 510-232-8507 exp req'd consulting; (415) 454-7785</p> <p>Industry has an opening in the Credit Department. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. This position requires a minimum of 10 years experience in the credit field. Please send resume to: EOE</p> <p>102, Alameda, CA. Apply between 9 a.m. & Noon on Tuesday & Thursday.</p>

City Clerk	\$4669-\$5733 per month	Extended - Closes March 23, 2001	<p>cludes positions for which the City of Oakland is currently accepting applications. The closing date for which the City will accept applications. To check for job openings and closing dates, please call the 24-hour Job Hotline at (510) 238-3111.</p> <p>TDD is (510) 238-6930.</p> <p>The Job Hotline is updated every Monday morning. If you would like a copy of a job announcement and application, you may visit our website at www.oaklandnet.net or visit the Employment Information Office at 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor, Oakland, California 94612-2019.</p>
Asst. Secretary II	\$3319-\$4075 per month	Extended - Closes March 23, 2001	
Payroll Personnel Clerk II	\$15.37-\$18.86 per hour	Closes Friday, March 23, 2001	
Payroll Personnel Clerk III	\$2865-\$3518 per month	Closes Friday, March 23, 2001	
Operation Specialist I (PT Specialization)	\$12.42-\$15.24 per hour	Extended - Closes March 23, 2001	
Supervising Civil Engineer	\$6258-\$7684 per month	Closes Friday, March 23, 2001	
Senior Literacy Assistant	\$20.09-\$24.66 per hour	Closes Friday, March 30, 2001	
African American Museum Curatorial Specialist	\$16.91-\$20.76 per hour	Closes Friday, April 6, 2001	
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KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS: Strong business, analytical and problem solving skills; excellent communication skills; ability to work independently in fast-paced environment; excellent interpersonal skills; excellent attention to detail.

EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE: 2-3 years within a customer service department or phone sales environment; good PC skills - Windows 98/Excel/Internet Knowledge useful; able to manage multiple projects.

Please e-mail address to hrl@palecek.com or mail to: Attn: HR, P.O. Box 225, Station A, Richmond, CA 94808.

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for financial evaluations of customer's credit worthiness, and information of terms and credit limits. Prices going on weekly basis to identify slow moving or risk accounts, account reconciliation, dispute resolution. Manage accounts receivable monthly DSO and percent current dues. Misc. duties: monthly reporting, assigning accounts to collection agencies or attorneys, filing of escrow and bankruptcy claims.

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Growing property mgmt. company seeks FT customer service rep. to work in 15 person office. 3 yrs exp. preferred, but will train. Danville, Compens. salary/middle bnfts. 401K. 50-60 hrs/week. Fax resume friendly office. FAX 925-743-3084

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Cashiers, Deli Workers: Energetic self-motivated pleasant person with good working conds. No exp. req. 40 hrs/week. Apply: Honey Baked Ham, 4555 Hayward Ave., Fremont, CA 94538, 1601 Sutter #E Concord.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Brotech company in Danville has an immediate opening for a customer service/invoice sales representative. B.S. in Chemistry or Biology. Please fax resume to (925) 803-8031 or e-mail: peptide@synnep.com

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Accounting

Cost Accountant (Job Code: D00-225CCT)
Establish and maintain standard costs, analyze production variances, prepare various management reports and assist with operations management. Requires BA/BS in accounting and previous cost accounting experience in a manufacturing environment.

Administrative

Administrative Associate (Job Code: L01-AA)
International and domestic distribution experience helpful. Microsoft Office experience required.

HR Assistant (Job Code: D01-011CCT)
Provide overall administrative support for the Diagnostic Department, including HRIS, maintaining training and personnel files and preparing and distributing reports. Previous experience working in an HR department and proficiency with the PC including Microsoft Office preferred.

Mail Room Clerk (Job Code: D00-302CCT)
Sort and deliver mail for facilities in Hercules and Bennington. School Diploma or equivalent and the ability to lift up to 30 pounds. Valid Driver's License.

Manager, Business Systems Development

(Job Code C01-009CCT)
This position manages a staff of business system consultants, analysts, and programmers and reports to the Director of Corporate I.T. Responsibilities include BaaN implementation, project management, BaaN finance and BaaN distribution competency, worldwide sales analysis and reporting, Oracle warehouse development, corporate accounting and financial applications (Mitchell-Humphrey GL, ManMan AP, Hyperion PeopleSoft, Human Resources and light support for various corporate treasury and tax applications. BA/BS degree in technical field is required with 12+ years progressively responsible information technology experience. An MBA is desirable. Professional certification such as a CPA or CMA a plus.

Sales Administrative Assistant (Job Code: D01-036CCT)
Provide administrative support for Diagnostics' Sales and Corporate Accounts teams, including answering phones, scheduling interviews/meetings and preparing presentations. AA/AS degree or equivalent and excellent administrative, organizational and communication skills. Proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint.

Engineering

Calibration Engineer (Job Code: D01-024CCT)
Responsible for managing our Calibration/PM programs to meet all QSR/ISO requirements and standards. Requires a BS in Engineering and 5+ years experience in a manufacturing environment. Familiarity with QSR/ISO or calibration needed.

Manufacturing Engineer (Job Code: D00-297CCT)
Provide process optimization/scale up of diagnostic systems to manufacturing scale. Requires BS in Biotechnology equivalent and 2-3 years experience in diagnostics manufacturing environment or equivalent.

Manufacturing Engineer (Job Code: L01-030)
Responsible for mechanical support of Instrumentation and New Products. Develop line layouts, establish vendor relationships, review new products for process capabilities.

Senior Electrical Engineer (Job Code: L01-BSEEBR)
Support Instrument Production and New Products. Work with suppliers in establishing partnerships for printed circuit board assembly and test.

Senior Electronics Engineer (Job Code: L01-BSEEBR)
BSEE with at least 12 years hands-on experience designing microprocessor-driven electromechanical instrumentation. Interest/experience in analog as well as digital. Some knowledge of power conversion techniques a plus. Knowledge of simulation and electronic CAD tools a plus. Some knowledge of experience with firmware a plus. 6 years successful project leadership experience and at least 3 years supervisory experience. Will apply skills and experience to designing key instrumentation products used in the separation, insertion, and amplification of DNA.

Senior Mechanical Engineer (Job Code: L01-HSHEBR)
MSME with at least 12 years hands-on experience designing electromechanical instrumentation. Good knowledge of experience with molded parts and mechanisms. Good knowledge of CAD, CAM, solid modeling, finite element analysis. Experienced with solving heat flow problems. Creative analytical with at least 6 years successful project leadership experience and at least 3 years supervisory experience. Will apply skills and experience to designing key instrumentation products used in the separation, insertion, and amplification of DNA.

Staff Engineer (Job Code: L01-GF)
Sr. Level Mechanical Engineer with 5-10 years of experience in project management and new product design. Proven design, AutoCad and Solidworks, machining, and process skills required.

Validation Engineer (Job Code D01-VECCCT)
Complete equipment and process validations for manufacturing process design. Requires a BS degree, 2-3 years experience and strong technical background (assay and working knowledge) of manufacturing capabilities and project management.

Facilities

Furniture Coordinator (Job Code C01-003CCT)
Responsible for managing the purchasing and installation of all furniture domestically. Coordinate all moves and repairs, secure contracts and pricing from furniture dealers and manufacturers. BS degree preferred with at least 4 years related experience.

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Maintenance Supervisor (Job Code: D01-037CCT)
Responsible for supervising the Maintenance department personnel as well as timely execution for Calibration/PM programs. Requires a BS degree or equivalent experience, 5 years experience in building maintenance in a production environment required.

Graphic Design/Web

Director III (Job Code: L01-041)
Develops campaign strategy, performs client presentations, and establishes and monitors the project schedule. Develops a creative theme/approach for the advertising campaign. Executes the creative development illustrations, directs photography, and prepares the copy for use by production vendors. Oversees the production of project components: ads, brochures, newsletters, mail, collateral, web and multi-media. This can include the supervision of color separation, printing, and the design of the final product. Provides guidance and helps manage freelancers/outside designers.

Developer (Job Code: L01-MARCOM)
Responsible for Marketing Communication's technical development of new requirements and enhancements to existing functionality of the Bio-Rad web site. As a member of the Life Science Group's Marketing Communications Department, works with the Senior Web Designer to provide technical assistance in developing web architecture, applications, and interfaces to other systems. Assists in the implementation of the Life Science Group's Internet marketing strategies, and assists in planning overall company strategy involving Internet technologies, including E-commerce.

Product Management

Product Manager III (Job Code: L00-169)
Responsible for product management of user-based diagnostic and isotopic imaging systems. Responsible for aspects of marketing programs, product release and product maintenance. Understanding of DNA and protein synthesis, knowledge of fluorescence and isotopic imaging techniques. Previous sales and/or technical related experience a plus.

Product Manager III (Job Code: D00-211CCT)
Successful candidate will manage Bio-Rad's hemoglobin products line. Responsible for setting strategic direction of product line, conducting market research, and developing specifications for new products. Requires BS in Life Sciences; MBA preferred and 5+ years experience in product/project management in the diagnostics or biotechnology industry.

Product Manager I (Job Code: L01-035)
Managing a Product Manager for our successful technology Explorer Program. This position will focus on product development, coordination of marketing and sales programs to support and grow Bio-Rad's science education products business. Teaching, research and sales experience required. Passion about improving the quality of life science education a must.

Product Manager I (Job Code: L01-052)
Product development, new product launch, and testing for western blotting and isoelectric focusing systems. Two plus years in electrophoresis/ blotting in a clinical or sales/marketing environment, BS/MS Life Science, MBA desirable.

Quality Assurance

Specialist (Job Code: D01-033CCT)
Responsible for audit program for Diagnostics for compliance with FDA, ISO and international regulatory requirements. BS degree in Biology, Chemistry, Medical Technology related field and 5+ years related experience.

Sales Product Management

Product Manager (Job Code: D00-205CCT)
Manage the strategic and tactical marketing plans for the B market in the areas of molecular testing and newborn screening. Requires a BA/BS degree in Life Science or a related technical discipline; advance degree preferred and 2+ years related sales/marketing experience; thorough knowledge of company and industry related products, marketing procedures and methodologies.

Product Manager: Education

Product Manager (Job Code: L01-021)
Responsible for Bio-Rad's BioEducation and Life Science training programs in the U.S. Qualifying candidates will have Life Science degree and related background. Marketing and/or sales experience preferred.

Product Manager: Molecular Biology

Product Manager (Job Code: L00-243)
Responsible for marketing molecular biology products in the U.S. market. Qualifying candidates will have a Life Science degree in Molecular Biology and at least 5 years experience in marketing and/or sales. BS preferred.

Shipping

Warehouse Receiver (Job Code: L01-004)
Responsibility required in work week, including possible night shift. Bar code, forklift, and dangerous goods experience helpful.

Scientist/Chemist

Senior Scientist (Job Code: D01-048CCT)
Responsible for experiments under the direction of senior staff. Develops reagents and buffers and maintain laboratory records plus databases. Requires a BS in Chemistry or appropriate discipline, general laboratory experience and PC literacy training in protein purification techniques desirable.

Production Chemist I/II (Job Code: L01-040)
Help us develop and manufacture the hottest new products in protein and DNA purification and analysis.

Senior Scientist (Job Code: D01-013CCT)
Develop immunoassays such as free T3 or other products. Support technology group in the evaluation of bead templates. Position requires "hands-on" bench capability in use of HPLC, FPLC and similar equipment. Advanced degree in Biochemistry or Immunology-Chemistry preferred.

Senior Scientist (Job Code: L00-266)
Work with a team of scientists and engineers on the development and testing of new biological imaging instrumentation platforms. Evaluate both novel and existing applications for both new and existing imaging instrumentation platforms. Advanced degree (PhD preferred) in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology or related life science/technical discipline. Minimum of 5 to 7 years research and development experience in biochemistry or molecular/cellular biology.

Staff Scientist (Job Code: D00-253CCT)
Responsible for developing novel, automated diagnostic tests involving measurement of enzyme activity. The person must demonstrate success at meeting deadlines while working in a multidisciplinary, team environment. MS or PhD in Enzymology, Biochemistry, Chemistry or related field. BS with 5 years relevant experience.

Research Scientist (Job Code: L01-042)
A scientist experienced in protein electrophoresis is needed to participate in the design and development of scientific instruments for research in Proteomics. Work within multi-disciplinary project teams to build innovative tools for colleagues around the world.

Software Development

Software Developer III (Job Code: D01-019CCT)
Project Manager for software projects. Directs development, testing, and documentation of new software. Manages activities of consultants and programmers at other locations. Requires a BS in Computer Science or equivalent, 5 years experience in software development implementation of software systems, project management, integration of software, hardware and firmware.

Software Product Manager (Job Code: L00-250)
Imaging Products Division; manage marketing, sales support, and product development activities for key software applications encompassing integrated imaging instruments and stand-alone analytical capabilities. Requirements: Advanced Degree in Life Science and/or MBA plus 5+ years related experience or equivalent. Sales and marketing experience in market sector.

Technical Support

Technical Support Representative II (Job Code: D00-208CCT)
Training of International Field Service Engineers on servicing new product instruments and existing instruments. Position will require at least 50% international travel. Requires extensive knowledge of computers and electronics, degree in biomedical engineering, electronic engineering, mechanical engineering or equivalent.

Technical Support Representative (Full and Part-time)
(Job Codes: D00-233CCT, D00-259CCT, D01-042CCT)
Provide customers with telephone (chemistry and troubleshooting) assistance, as well as document all contacts and assist with technical training. BS degree in Medical Technology and 3 years experience with HPLC, Immunoassay and/or Microbiology Systems.

Technical Support Consultant

Technical Support (Job Code: L00-177)
Challenging opportunity for scientists and logical thinkers to use their problem-solving skills to support our scientist customers in the use of our broad and complex product line. Assist the company in its goal of ever-increasing quality by accurately capturing and tracking customer reports of product problems. Job satisfaction comes from simultaneously helping customers achieve their scientific goals while helping the company to make higher quality products.

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250 Help Wanted

DIRECTOR OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT

This firm will plan & conduct in-services and clinical education for all personnel. Must have strong teaching & communication skills. We offer a competitive salary with excellent benefits. Send resume to: Manager Health Services 1975 Tice Valley Blvd. Walnut Creek, CA 94595 For PT Attn. HR Michele Layton Fax 925-926-0201

DRAFTER/DETAILER

Great opportunity for immediate employment. CAD drawing multi-story concrete structures. Must be able to read & understand architectural drawings w/AutoCAD. exp. pref. Please fax resume to 925/820-0263 or call (925) 820-7373

DRIVER - Class A Truck

Min 2 years exp. FT, Good Clean DMV. 925/741-9211

DRIVER - Class B, health plan, 401K, Lots of hours

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DRIVER

Clean DMV, good cust. service, capable help full. W.C. area. Call 925-1531

COURIER

The nation's leading health care services has an immediate opening in a health care facility. Must be able to drive a van, possess a CA driver's license, & have a valid DMV record for immediate consideration. Fax your resume w/DMV printout to: 925-812-1629

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HR Dept. CV/ST 7575 Southridge Rd. Livermore, CA 94550 Emp. Num 800-827-5627 Fax 925-838-8338

DRIVER Delivery FT, PT, Mon-Fri, \$9/hr. 1 mil. bnf's

Clean DMV & reliable. 925-947-1876 \$300/Week

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DRIVER Local Delivery FT, PT, Mon-Fri, \$9/hr. 1 mil. bnf's

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DRIVER FT/PT Baital Truck Driver

needed at Suno. Must be able to drive a van, possess a CA driver's license, & have a valid DMV record for immediate consideration. Fax your resume w/DMV printout to: 925-812-1629

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DRIVERS: Acme & Son

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250 Help Wanted

SPORTS PAGE DESIGNER/COPY EDITOR

The Tribune, a 40,000-circulation Knight Ridder newspaper in San Jose, California, has an immediate opening for a sports page designer/copy editor. We're looking for someone who understands content, both visual and words, and can select, crop, manipulate and stylize photos to create dynamic, action-packed layouts. Has a solid understanding of computer software. Headlines and cutlines and edit stories when needed according to Tribune style. Aspires to be at the forefront of journalism. Has an enthusiastic attitude and a team player's skills. We offer that person a chance to gain experience in the company of an excellent staff. Send resume with a recent portfolio of work to: Sports Page Designer/Copy Editor, The Tribune, 1000 California Street, San Jose, CA 95128. Fax 408/277-4201

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Provides routine maintenance and handyman services on contract basis for families. The group home in PLEASANT HILL, CA is licensed, insured and have valid OSHA 10, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 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8370, 8380, 8390, 8400, 8410, 8420, 8430, 8440, 8450, 8460, 8470, 8480, 8490, 8500, 8510, 8520, 8530, 8540, 8550, 8560, 8570, 8580, 8590, 8600, 8610, 8620, 8630, 8640, 8650, 8660, 8670, 8680, 8690, 8700, 8710, 8720, 8730, 8740, 8750, 8760, 8770, 8780, 8790, 8800, 8810, 8820, 8830, 8840, 8850, 8860, 8870, 8880, 8890, 8900, 8910, 8920, 8930, 8940, 8950, 8960, 8970, 8980, 8990, 9000, 9010, 9020, 9030, 9040, 9050, 9060, 9070, 9080, 9090, 9100, 9110, 9120, 9130, 9140, 9150, 9160, 9170, 9180, 9190, 9200, 9210, 9220, 9230, 9240, 9250, 9260, 9270, 9280, 9290, 9300, 9310, 9320, 9330, 9340, 9350, 9360, 9370, 9380, 9390, 9400, 9410, 9420, 9430, 9440, 9450, 9460, 9470, 9480, 9490, 9500, 9510, 9520, 9530, 9540, 9550, 9560, 9570, 9580, 9590, 9600, 9610, 9620, 9630, 9640, 9650, 9660, 9670, 9680, 9690, 9700, 9710, 9720, 9730, 9740, 9750, 9760, 9770, 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820, 9830, 9840, 9850, 9860, 9870, 9880, 9890, 9900, 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940, 9950, 9960, 9970, 9980, 9990, 10000, 10010, 10020, 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17180, 17190, 17200, 17210, 17220, 17230, 17240, 17250, 17260, 17270, 17280, 17290, 17300, 17310, 17320, 17330, 17340, 17350, 17360, 17370, 17380, 17390, 17400, 17410, 17420, 17430, 17440, 17450, 17460, 17470, 17480, 17490, 17500, 17510, 17520, 17530, 17540, 17550, 17560, 17570, 17580, 17590, 17600, 17610, 17620, 17630, 17640, 17650, 17660, 17670, 17680, 17690, 17700, 17710, 17720, 17730, 17740, 17750, 17760, 17770, 17780, 17790, 17800, 17810, 17820, 17830, 17840, 17850, 17860, 17870, 17880, 17890, 17900, 17910, 17920, 17930, 17940, 17950, 17960, 17970, 17980, 17990, 18000, 18010, 18020, 18030, 18040, 18050, 18060, 18070, 18080, 18090, 18100, 18110, 18120, 18130, 18140, 18150, 18160, 18170, 18180, 18190, 18200, 18210, 18220, 18230, 18240, 18250, 18260, 18270, 18280, 18290, 18300, 18310, 18320, 18330, 18340, 18350, 18360, 18370, 18380, 18390, 18400, 18410, 18420, 18430, 18440, 18450, 18460, 18470, 18480, 18490, 18500, 18510, 18520, 18530, 18540, 18550, 18560, 18570, 18580, 18590, 18600, 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 Chief Technology Officers
 Cisco Engineers
 Customer Service Representatives
 DB2 Database Designer
 Design Engineering Managers
 Design Engineers
 Design Methodology Engineers
 Director International Business Development
 Director Product Marketing
 Directors, Information Technology
 Directors of Business Development
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 FAE Technology Managers (Automotive)
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Current DE experience with minimum 3 yrs. underwriting. Must be able to provide customer service and data entry skills to meet. We offer a competitive salary and benefits with an opportunity for growth. Please send resume and salary requirements to: Washburn Mortgage Co., 315 E. Eisenhower Ste. 12, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or fax to (734) 662-9517. EOE. HIR: washburnmortgage.com

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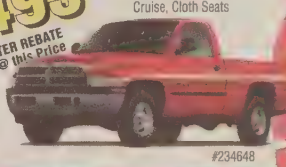
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SHOPS AND SERVICES OF THE EAST BAY
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Coffee your way

Coffee company creates a blend just for you

By Sylvia Rector
KINGSTON RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

A few weeks ago, I placed an Internet order for coffee beans that would supposedly be blended and roasted specifically for my taste preferences.

I was skeptical at first, but what I received was not only a coffee I liked but a glimpse into a marketing trend we'll be seeing more of.

What initially intrigued me about the coffee was that the seller, Millstone Personal Blends, didn't ask a single question about how I prefer my morning cup of inspiration — mellow or sharp, medium or dark, sharp or smoky.

Instead, I was asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 10, how well-done I like my steak, how spicy I take my salsa and how dark I prefer my chocolate.

The process, which Millstone calls "tasteprinting," sounded like just another sales gimmick.

But when the coffee arrived and I brewed my first cup, it came surprisingly close to matching my definition of a great brew: very dark but more mellow than bitter — but not so mellow that it's boring and one-dimensional.

How'd they do it?

Personal Blends brand manager Sheri Tullis says the Tasteprint ques-

tions reveal the degrees to which we like three key taste characteristics of coffee — acidity, bitterness and impact.

People who like very hot salsa tend to like acidic foods — things with tartness or tanginess.

"Guatemalan beans are very tart and tangy; they give a crisp, clean finish. So if you like tart foods, you might enjoy something that has Guatemalan beans," Tullis says.

How dark you like your chocolate is fairly straightforward, Tullis says: "It measures the amount of bitterness or darkness you like in your foods."

People who like milk chocolate will like a medium or light roast, while dark chocolate lovers will prefer a darker roast.

The doneness you prefer in steak, she says, corresponds to the amount of flavor you demand in food: "The more rare, usually the more flavor there is."

"There's a term in coffee called 'impact,' and the more rare you like your food, the more impact you might like in your coffee."

So the coffee blender would choose beans with a stronger flavor, and the roaster would use methods that accentuate those flavors.

Personal Blends, available at www.personalblends.com, comes

Please see COFFEE, Page 2

SUSAN TUSA/KINGSTON RIDDER

MILLSTONE PERSONAL BLENDS is a coffee company that blends beans based on a customer's answers to its questionnaire. The tasteprint questions reveal the degree to which people like three taste characteristics: acidity, bitterness and impact.



Especially For

Sylvia Rector

NOTES

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OSCAR SNACKS

Fun food to eat while watching the Academy Awards ceremony

The Academy Awards are here again, a harbinger of spring far more flashy than the reappearance of the robin.

Whether you're throwing a big Oscar bash for the 70th anniversary of the ceremony, or just planning on watching the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presentations with a snazzy snack, here are a few elegant recipes to enhance your viewing pleasure.

And, please, no talking during the show.

Hot Crab Artichoke Spread

1 red bell pepper, chopped
3 green onions, sliced (about 1/3 cup)
2 teaspoons olive oil
2 (6-ounce) cans lump crabmeat, drained and picked through
1 (14-ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Sliced green onions and chopped red bell pepper, for garnish
Thin wheat crackers, to serve

Preparation

1. Cook and stir red pepper and green onions in oil in skillet until tender.

2. Mix crabmeat, artichokes, mayonnaise and cheese in bowl; stir in pepper mixture. Spoon into lightly greased 1-quart casserole. Bake at 375 degrees F for 25 to 30 minutes or until bubbly.

3. Garnish with sliced green onions and chopped red pepper. Serve hot as a dip with crackers.

Makes 4 cups

Nutrition Information per serving (2 tablespoons): 51 calories, 4 g total fat, 1 g saturated fat, 12 mg cholesterol, 190 mg sodium

Brie Amandine

1 (17-ounce) Brie cheese wheel
3 tablespoons spicy brown mustard
2 tablespoons margarine or butter
2 tablespoons dry sherry
1 tablespoon apricot preserves
1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted
wheat crackers to serve

Preparation

1. Broil cheese on lightly greased broiler pan, 6 inches from heat source for 8 to 10 minutes or until soft.

2. Heat mustard, margarine or

butter, sherry and preserves in small saucepan, to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 1 minute.

3. Place cheese on serving platter. Spoon mustard mixture over cheese; top with almonds.

Serve warm or at room temperature with crackers.

Makes 8 to 10 servings

Recipes from www.culinary.net, Foodeditor.com

Angel Wing Canapés

1/2 pound brie cheese
1 (6.5-ounce) package Angel Wings cookies
3 tablespoons raspberry jam
1/4 cup sliced almonds

Preparation

1. Cut cheese into bite size 1/4-inch thick pieces. Place cookies on a foil-lined baking sheet; top each with cheese piece.

2. Top each with 1/2 teaspoon jam and almonds.

3. Bake at 350 degrees F for 5 to 6 minutes or until cheese softens. Serve warm.

Nutrition Information per serving (1 appetizer): 109 calories, 4 g protein, 10 g carbohydrate, 6 g total fat, 3 g saturated fat, 51 mg cholesterol, 88 mg sodium, 1 g dietary fiber

Makes 18

Recipe from Stella D'Oro, Planters, Foodeditor.com

Cowboy Kabobs

1/3 cup steak sauce
1/3 cup barbecue sauce
2 teaspoons prepared horseradish
1 (1 1/2-pound) beef top round steak, cut into 1/2-inch strips
8 pearl onions
8 red or green bell pepper strips

Preparation

1. Mix steak sauce, barbecue sauce and horseradish in small bowl; set aside.

2. Soak 16 (10-inch) wooden skewers in water for at least 30 minutes.

Thread beef strips onto skewers; place an onion or pepper strip on the end of each skewer.

Place kabobs in glass dish; coat with steak sauce mixture. Cover; refrigerate 1 hour, turning occasionally.

3. Grill or broil kabobs over medium heat for 4 to 6 minutes or



ABC TELEVISION NETWORK

THE OSCAR, the entertainment industry's most coveted honor, will be awarded on ABC Television, Sunday March 25. Check local listings for time.

until done, turning occasionally. Serve hot. Nutrition Information per serving: 191 calories, 20 g protein, 9 g carbohydrate, 8 g total fat, 3 g saturated fat, 52 mg cholesterol, 422 mg sodium, 1 g dietary fiber

Makes 16 appetizers

Recipe from A.1. Steak Sauce (<http://www.a1steak.com>), www.culinary.net, Foodeditor.com

Sensational Stuffed Mushrooms

Hot out of the oven, mushroom caps are an elegant appetizer. 30 large mushrooms (about 1 pound)

1/2 pound bulk pork sausage
1 cup chopped dried tart cherries
2 green onions, sliced

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

Preparation

Pull stems from mushrooms and discard (or save for another use). Rinse mushroom caps; drain well. Set aside.

Cook sausage in a large skillet, stirring to break up meat, 5 minutes, or until sausage is done. Remove from heat.

Add dried cherries, onions and cream cheese; mix well.

Fill each mushroom cap with a heaping teaspoonful of sausage mixture.

Place filled mushrooms on a lightly greased baking sheet.

Bake in a preheated 425° oven 6 to 8 minutes. Serve immediately. Makes 30.

Cherry Marketing Institute Inc., www.culinary.net, Foodeditor.com

Coffee: an issue that's even more pressing

■ Even the way you brew coffee can personalize your morning cuppa

THE WASHINGTON POST

The automatic drip coffee machine is standard equipment in many American homes.

For the most part, it's reliable. Coffee stays warm. Busy folks program an automatic drip so that they can, at the desired hour, yes, wake up and smell the coffee.

Discriminating coffee drinkers may prefer the stylish French press or plunger pot method.

Near-boiling water is mixed with coarsely ground coffee in a glass carafe.

The plunger/filter is depressed, and essential oils are released from the grounds into the brew — oils that paper and metal filters remove.

The result is fresh, rich-tasting coffee.

Chef's Choice, best known for producing superior knife sharpeners, is on the cutting edge as well of plunger-pot technology.

The new, 8-cup Electric French Press Plus has a power base that quickly heats water to the perfect temperature and carafe that lifts off for serving.

Chef's Choice Electric French Press Plus (\$69.95) is available from Chef's catalog; call 800-

338-3232. Web: scatalog.com.

For those who prefer a more traditional method, manual presses are often a cal restaurant staple.

These presses are often a cal restaurant staple. They're easy to use, and they brew a strong cup of coffee in a time.

If you think you're going to change from the automatic to a plunger, aren't sure if you're the investment.

Vietnamese coffee is a popular choice, and so is the French press.

While often used as a powerful delicacy, it is a combination of coffee, sweetened condensed milk, and a dash of lime.

merit time treat. It will be happy to let you take the time to store that coffee.

But, a French press is known for its shot of espresso — compared

Coffee

FROM PAGE 1

with a label imprinted with both the coffee recipient's name and the name you choose to give your custom blend.

The coffee is \$9.99 for 12 ounces, plus shipping — about \$1 higher than regular Millstone coffees at the grocery store.

Tullis says Millstone — like many other companies — has long had the expertise to tailor its

products to fit tastes. But, a French press is known for its shot of espresso — compared

"It has been too hard to personalize products you have the time to can easily customize.

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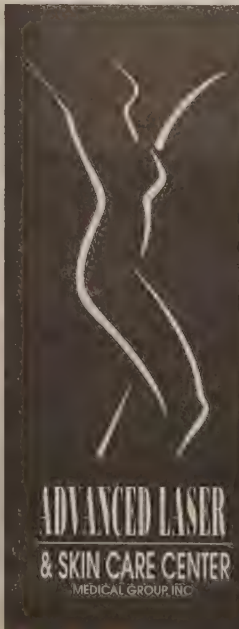
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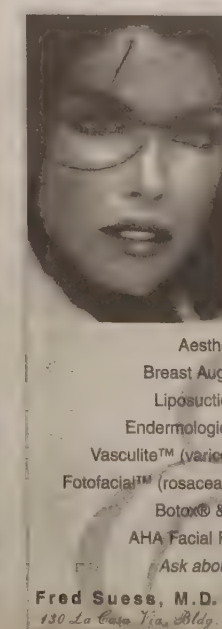
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Swift spuds compared: Betty Crocker; Hungry Jack and Barbara's

By Andy Badeker
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The humble boxed mashed potato mix has been a veteran fighter in the cause of convenience.

Its mission is clear: Get an entire family's starch into position as quickly as possible.

All these products take maybe five minutes to prepare once the saucepan hits the burner.

Their flavor and texture, though, have been easy targets, especially since skin-on, roughly mashed potatoes enriched with butter and cream, garlic and herbs have become a hedonistic staple of restaurant comfort food.

How can dehydrated flakes and a little hot milk compete?

They can't, of course. Common faults are a gluey texture and a briny flavor, our tasters said.

But not all brands taste like the box they're sold in. Potato Buds and Hungry Jack, first- and second-place finishers, respectively, both displayed more potato flavor and a lighter texture than others. Barbara's, made without preservatives, finished third.

When you consider what an unsuspecting russet potato goes through to become "instant," it's amazing that the result tastes anything like the original.

Spuds are partly cooked under pressure to loosen their skins. Then they are sliced into slabs that will cook evenly.

Once mashed, most spuds destined for the retail market are rolled onto a steam-heated, cast-iron drum that dries them to a paper-thin sheet of flakes-to-be.

Wondering why the boxes list ingredients other than "potatoes"?

Monoglycerides and diglycerides improve texture by preventing the release of starch from damaged cells.

Sodium acid pyrophosphate (what?) preserves the color of dried potatoes.

And "butteroil" is a common butter flavoring made of vegetable oil.

Brands that require the cook

Can dehydrated flakes and a little hot milk compare to real mashed potatoes?

only to stir in water commonly contain powdered milk and salt.

About that gluey texture: Instant potato flakes have an Achilles heel, according to Ryan Carter, a food scientist with Idahoan Foods.

If you rehydrate them with water hotter than 170 degrees, they will turn sticky, courtesy of released potato starch. So don't use boiling water unless the package insists on it.

Six tasters graded the products on a scale of 1 to 9, the highest score.

Scores are averages. Prices may reflect discounts from sales or frequent-shopper cards.

And the winners are...

1. Betty Crocker Potato Buds (5.7 points, \$2.29 for 13.75 ounces; 17 cents per ounce);

"Looser texture than others; more agreeable."

"Actually, these are acceptable."

"Cafeteria flavor-I like it!"

2. Hungry Jack Mashed Potatoes (5.3 points, \$3.39 for 26.7 ounces; 13 cents per ounce);

"Potato-like aroma."

"A bit of artificial butter flavor."

"Closest to potato flavor, but not very close."

3. Barbara's Mashed Potatoes (5.2 points, \$1.59 for 8 ounces; 20 cents per ounce at Whole Foods Market);

"Saltwater aftertaste."

"Nicer flavor than many. But still hints of the box."

"Nice graininess to approximate the real thing."

Others tasted

4. Jewel Instant Mashed Potatoes (3.8 points)

5. Idahoan Real Premium Mashed Potatoes (3)

6. Idaho Spuds Mashed Potatoes (2.7)

DINNER IN 60 MINUTES

Roasted chicken without dark meat

By Renee Schettler
THE WASHINGTON POST

Like the idea of roast chicken but don't care for dark meat? Try roasting individual, bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts.

The smaller pieces cook more quickly, you can roast more than one if you wish, and there's room if you want to roast potatoes at the same time.

You may substitute thighs or drumsticks for the breasts, allowing a few additional minutes of cooking time for dark meat.

If you wish, substitute other root vegetables for the potatoes or add thickly sliced carrots and onions or shallots to the mix.

Roast Chicken With Potatoes and Garlic (6 servings)

Adapted from "The Martha Stewart Living Cookbook" (Clarkson Potter, \$35).

3 pounds small potatoes, peeled or unpeeled (preferably mixed, such as red new potatoes and fingerlings)

1 head garlic

About 3 tablespoons olive oil

6 bone-in, skin-on chicken breast halves

1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, or to taste

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Fresh rosemary sprigs (optional garnish)

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Cut the potatoes into 1 1/2- to 2-inch chunks. Separate the garlic into cloves but do not peel.

Divide the potatoes and garlic evenly between 2 rimmed baking sheets in a single layer.

Drizzle with 2 tablespoons of the oil and toss to coat.

Rub the chicken with the remaining 1 tablespoon oil and season with salt and pepper.

Place the chicken on top of the potatoes and roast for 30 minutes. Using a spatula, turn the potatoes, moving the chicken as necessary.

Return to the oven, reduce the heat to 400 degrees and roast until the chicken is cooked through (the juices run clear and the meat registers 160 degrees on a meat thermometer), 10 to 15 minutes.

To serve, divide the potatoes, garlic and chicken evenly among plates and garnish with rosemary if using. Serve immediately.

Nutritional information per serving (with skin): 465 calories, 36 gm protein, 40 gm carbohydrates, 18 gm fat, 93 mg cholesterol, 5 gm saturated fat, 137 mg sodium, 4 gm dietary fiber.

Fancy catfish and salad in 25 minutes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Check out the recipe for this catfish dish and set aside about 15 minutes for preparation and 10 minutes for cooking. That's it. Dinner for four is ready to serve.

The recipe is an original from Elizabeth Terry, chef and owner of Elizabeth on 37th, a restaurant in Savannah, Ga. She turns to advantage a characteristic of domestic farm-raised catfish that cooks very quickly but doesn't fall apart.

Potato pecan-crusted catfish with ginger-orange dressed salad

1/2 cup orange juice

1/3 cup olive oil

4 teaspoons light soy sauce

1 teaspoon ground ginger or 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger

Four 4- to 6-ounce catfish fillets

1/2 cup pecans, toasted and finely chopped

1/2 cup packaged potato flakes
3 navel oranges, peeled and diced
5- to 8-ounce bag mixed tender salad greens

2 tablespoons slivered fresh basil

Preheat oven to 425 F.

Whisk together orange juice, olive oil, soy sauce and ginger to make dressing. Brush 2 tablespoons of the dressing on the catfish. Place catfish on an oiled baking pan. Mix together pecans and potato flakes; spoon on top of catfish. Drizzle with an additional 2 tablespoons of the dressing. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Combine the remaining dressing with salad greens and basil. Divide salad mixture evenly over four plates. Top with catfish. Serve immediately.

Makes 4 servings.

Recipe from the Catfish Institute.

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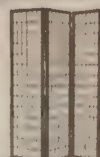
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A sauvignon blanc by any other name ...

By Frank J. Prial
NEW YORK TIMES

Sauvignon blanc has to be the most self-effacing of wines. Chardonnay always seems to be at center stage saying, "Look at me, look at me." Riesling is probably the most respected of all white wines, and gewurztraminer is acclaimed even by people who can't pronounce it.

Sauvignon blanc, on the other hand, often does best under aliases. It is entirely possible to find devotees of Loire Valley wines who will declare: "I can't stand sauvignon blanc, but I love Sancerre." Or Quincy. Or Reuilly. They are all made from sauvignon blanc.

So is Pouilly-Fume, which a lot of people confuse with Pouilly-Fuisse. Pouilly-Fume is yet another Loire Valley wine made from sauvignon blanc. Pouilly-Fuisse is a Burgundy wine made from chardonnay.

Sauvignon blanc's success in the United States, which has been considerable, is at least partly owed to Robert Mondavi's change of the wine's name. In the early 1970s, he had the wisdom to realize that no one had ever done anything interesting with sauvignon blanc. It was, in the minds of anyone who took the trouble to try it, sweet, watery and characterless. In other words, forgettable.

By limiting yields to intensify flavors, by emphasizing the wine's fresh acidity, instead of masking it, and by renaming it fume blanc, he gave California wine makers their first serious alternative to chardonnay. What's more, he purposely did not register the name fume blanc. Anyone could use it, and quite a few did, not only in this country but also in New Zealand and Australia.

David Stare, at Dry Creek Vineyards in Healdsburg, was an early champion of sauvignon blanc, and he, too, adopted the name fume blanc. Today, there are fume blancs from many producers, including Chateau St. Jean and Grigich Hills in California, Sakonnet Vineyard in Rhode Island and, from Washington state, Hogue Cellar and Covey Run, one of the most attractive fume blancs.

There are those who insist that fume blanc, while made from the white sauvignon grape, is a different style of wine. It isn't.

There are essentially two styles of sauvignon blanc. One is round, fruity and medium- to full-bodied. Michel Lynch, from Bordeaux, or Geyser Peak, from California, are

examples. The other is lean and acidic with a pronounced vegetal taste — asparagus, perhaps — and a pungent vegetal aroma. Mulderbosch, from South Africa, and Brancott, from New Zealand, are typical.

The first I think of as the old Bordeaux white style, the style mostly emulated by American wine makers. The second is more the Loire Valley style, which was to inspire the wine makers of South Africa and New Zealand.

As one who has never thought much of dry table wine as an aperitif compared with Champagne or sherry or a good dry martini, I tend to judge wines by their performance with food. Sauvignon blanc, at its best, is the ideal fish wine. Its flavors stand up to and complement the flavors of almost all seafood, and its acidity cuts through and neutralizes the natural oiliness of the fish.

Happily, the trend among sauvignon blanc producers is toward the leaner, more pungent style. Over the last 20 years, prompted by the oenologist Denis Dubourdieu, at least some Bordeaux wine makers have jettisoned the heavy, rich style of sauvignon blanc in favor of white wines that are cleaner, crisper and fresher tasting. That it has taken so long in Bordeaux, which is a wonderful place for fish, is one reason it's so easy to say, "I just don't understand the French."

Chateau Haut-Brion, in the Pesece-Leognan part of the Graves, has always made a lean, intense white wine, but it costs a king's ransom. Chateau Haut-Bergey is made in the newer style and at a relatively affordable price. Chateau La Garde and Chateau Carbonnieux, too, are worth seeking out.

The New Zealand revolution was started over a decade ago by Cloudy Bay sauvignon blanc from Marlborough, a wine with breathtaking acidity and intense flavors. Almost overnight, it became a cult wine in the United States and did much to put New Zealand wine making on the map.

Cloudy Bay is still a favorite New Zealand sauvignon blanc, but it has successful and less expensive competitors in Stoneleigh Vineyards and Montana Brancott Estate. Brancott is actually the birthplace of New Zealand sauvignon blanc.

In South Africa, sauvignon blanc may never replace steen, which is the Afrikaans name for chenin blanc, but it has enjoyed widespread popularity in recent years,



DAVE S. STARE, right, an early champion of sauvignon blanc, with his granddaughter, Taylor, in his Dry Creek Vineyards in Healdsburg.

and plantings have continued to increase. Mulderbosch, a delicious wine in the leaner style, is still the best-known example in the American market.

Barrel fermenting or oak aging, however brief, would seem to be antithetical to the modern, lighter style of sauvignon blanc, but there are California producers that use

oak with style. One of them is Cakebread Cellars, which integrates a bit of oak into the wine but does it with a light touch. The freshness is still there. Robert Mondavi's Reserve Fume Blanc is almost too much of a good thing. This is a big wine, one that might go well with game. Chalk Hill's sauvignon blanc is medium bodied compared with the

Loire wines, but I would still prefer it to most California chardonnays as a food wine.

Finally, it is worth noting that sauvignon blanc is a delightful match for many cheeses. More and more wine drinkers are coming to the realization that red wine and cheese are not always the loving couple they have been made out

to be. Anyone who through the Loire has found the local white wines are paired with local white cheeses, particularly chevre.

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Hi Beverly Bundy
SAY PROGRAM

Using all-Internet today, I had a request from Marjorie, who is trying to replicate a recipe that her great-grandmother made.

I was a pastry rolled up with butter. Neither of the recipes I found (both from Stephanie Shaw's Culinary Connection) were exactly the same, but they were both fabulous, so here they are.

Someone has something closer to the original, we'd appreciate getting a copy.

Strawberry Cake Roll

Ingredients:
4 eggs
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons freshly grated lemon zest
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup cornstarch
Confectioners' sugar for dusting

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the bottom of a greased jelly roll pan, 15 1/2-by-10 1/2-by-1 inch, with foil.

Grease the foil and dust with flour, knocking out excess. In a bowl with an electric mixer, beat egg yolks, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, zest and vanilla until thick and pale, and mixture forms a ribbon when beaters are lifted.

In a large bowl with clean beaters, beat egg whites until they hold soft peaks.

Beat in the remaining sugar and gradually beat egg whites until they hold stiff peaks.

Stir 1/3 of the whites into the yolk mixture to lighten it and fold in remaining whites gently but thoroughly.

Sift flour, salt and cornstarch over batter and fold until batter is just combined.

Spread batter evenly in prepared pan and bake in middle rack of oven for 6 to 9 minutes or until cake is lightly colored and springs back when pressed lightly.

Dust a kitchen towel generously with confectioners' sugar and invert cake onto it.

Remove foil carefully from cake. Starting with the long side, roll up cake loosely but gently in the towel and cool 30 minutes.

Syrup
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon water

In a small saucepan, combine 2 tablespoons granulated sugar, 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice and 1 tablespoon water and bring to a simmer, stirring until all the sugar is dissolved. Keep syrup warm.

Stir half the chilled whipped cream into the chilled lemon curd until mixture loosens up.

Remove the strawberry hulls and either halve or quarter the berries, depending on their size. Cover and chill.

Cake:
4 large eggs, separated
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons freshly grated lemon zest
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup cornstarch
Confectioners' sugar for dusting

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the bottom of a greased jelly roll pan, 15 1/2-by-10 1/2-by-1 inch, with foil.

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2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon water

In a small saucepan, combine 2 tablespoons granulated sugar, 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice and 1 tablespoon water and bring to a simmer, stirring until all the sugar is dissolved. Keep syrup warm.

Stir half the chilled whipped cream into the chilled lemon curd until mixture loosens up.

Fold in remaining whipped cream. Unroll cake and carefully brush with half the warm syrup. Spread cake with lemon curd filling.

Arrange halved strawberries over the filling. Re-roll the cake carefully. Transfer cake to a platter seam side down, and brush with remaining syrup.

Chill roll covered loosely for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Assembly
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

and squeeze glaze decoratively over cake.

■ Nutritional analysis per serving: 403 calories, 22 grams fat, 47 grams carbohydrates, 6 grams protein, 269 milligrams cholesterol, 121 milligrams sodium, 50 percent of calories from fat.

Lemon Roll

Serves 8
1 cup PLUS 2 tablespoons sifted cake flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
6 eggs, separated
1 cup superfine granulated sugar
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 1/2 teaspoons lemon rind, grated
Confectioners' sugar

Butter a 15-by-10-by-1-inch jelly roll pan, line with wax paper, butter paper.

Sift flour, baking powder and salt onto wax paper.

Beat the egg whites in a medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until frothy.

Add 1/2 cup of the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating until the meringue forms stiff, glossy peaks.

Beat the egg yolks in a small bowl with the electric mixer and the

Recipe Finder

By Beverly Bundy

same beaters, without washing, until light.

Add the remaining sugar 1 tablespoon at a time, beating until mixture is thick and creamy. Add lemon juice and rind.

By hand, add the flour mixture gradually, beating until smooth. Fold egg mixture into meringue until no streaks of white remain.

Spread batter evenly in prepared pan. Bake in a moderate oven at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched with fingertips.

Cool in pan on wire rack 5 minutes. Invert pan on a clean cloth that has been generously sprinkled with confectioners' sugar.

Carefully peel off paper. Trim off any crispy edges, then roll up with towel, starting at one of the short sides. Cool completely on wire rack.

Super lemon filling
2/3 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch

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Food that's good for heart and soul

FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM

Here is a soul food recipe that the whole family will love.

This one comes from a cookbook called "Curtis Cooks With Heart & Soul," by Food TV chef Curtis Aikens (William Morrow, \$23), whose work is all about flavorful, healthful cooking.

Red beans and rice is a favorite Louisiana dish, and it's great with andouille sausage added or with grilled shrimp or chicken on the side.

Red beans and rice

Makes 5 servings
1 pound dried red beans, soaked

overnight

1 large yellow onion, diced
1 ½ celery stalks, diced
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
2 bay leaves
¾ cup olive oil
3 to 4 cups water
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 to 3 cups cooked rice

Drain the beans, discarding the water, and set them aside in a pot. Place onion, celery, garlic and bay leaves in a medium mixing bowl. Drizzle the olive oil over them and

let mixture sit at room temperature for at least 30 minutes.

Pour the oil and vegetables over the beans and let sit at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes.

Add enough of the water to cover the beans and bring to a boil. Lower the heat to simmer, add salt and pepper, cover and cook until beans are tender, about three to four hours. Remove bay leaves and serve beans over rice.

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Finder

FROM PAGE 5

2/3 cup water
2 egg yolks, slightly beaten
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons lemon rind, grated
¼ cup lemon juice

Combine sugar and cornstarch in a small saucepan. Stir in water. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and bubbles, 1 minute. Remove from heat. Beat half the hot cornstarch mixture into beaten

egg yolks, then stir back into saucepan. Cook 1 minute longer. Stir in butter, lemon rind and juice. Place piece of plastic wrap directly on filling to prevent skin from forming. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Unroll cooled cake; spread with lemon filling. Roll, then wrap firmly in wax paper. Refrigerate until firm.

To serve: Remove wax paper, place roll on serving platter and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

■ Nutritional analysis per serving: 267 calories, 6 grams fat, 47 grams carbohydrates, 6 grams pro-

tein, 197 milligrams cholesterol, 192 milligrams sodium, 21 percent of calories from fat.

Beverly Bundy is food editor for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Send recipes and requests to Beverly Bundy, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Box 1870, Fort Worth, Texas 76101. Or e-mail to [bbundy\(at\)star-telegram.com](mailto:bbundy(at)star-telegram.com). Include a daytime phone number. Responses to requests will be made only through this column. Visit the Star-Telegram's online services on the World Wide Web: www.star-telegram.com.

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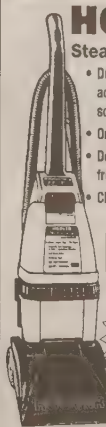
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El Cerrito Roundup

Advertising supplement to the Journal and Berkeley Voice

Spring 2001



RICHARD WIGN / STAFF

ANTIQUES DEALER Earl McCann examines a vintage coffee grinder inside Fairmount Antiques, a popular shop along the Fairmount Avenue strip.

Shopping around El Cerrito

2
Plaza merchants keep serving the community

2
Longtime furniture store aims at the local market

3
Bring it home to baby

5
A look back at the city's growth

6
Touring El Cerrito's landmarks



RICHARD WIGN / STAFF

AT DARLA'S BABY BOUTIQUE, Rebekah and her daughter consider the purchase of a plush Barney.



ACTION FIGURES and other collectibles await your pleasure at Stand-Up Comics, a popular comics shop on San Pablo Avenue.

RICHARD WIGN / STAFF

Merchants prosper by paying attention to their clients

By Tuseda A. Graggs
CORRESPONDENT

El Cerrito Plaza, the shopping center that once put El Cerrito on the retail map, is a construction site. Half of the immense center has been torn down, and heavy equipment operators are preparing the site for a brighter future.

Despite these challenges facing El Cerrito's retail business, many of the merchants throughout the city say they are doing well — even thriving.

Even some business owners in the portion of the Plaza that still exists say they are surviving — and looking forward to the future.

Construction at the Plaza is scheduled for completion in the middle of 2002.

At the Plaza

Kit & Caboodle

"Sure everyone is affected somewhat during construction," said Lance Klokkevold, owner of Kit & Caboodle, a hobby shop that sells a huge variety of radio-controlled planes, trains and automobiles.

"At first people weren't sure if we were still open or if they could get into the store. But people are finding that we're still here and they can get to us, and they are," he said.

Klokkevold opened his business 23 years ago and has spent the last eight years at El Cerrito Plaza.

"I know that there will be even more traffic through here when the construction is finished, so I'm looking forward to that," he said. 550



RICHARD WION/STAFF

SILVER SCREEN VIDEO has a wide enough selection of foreign-language films to attract Barbara Schaffer, who teaches Spanish at De Anza High in Richmond and comes to the shop to rent videos for class.

El Cerrito Plaza. 510-524-9942.

Silver Screen Video

Silver Screen Video has been at the Plaza for about a decade and is also staying afloat during the construction. The video store recently moved from its original digs on the side of the Plaza, nearest the construction, to a spot on the other side

of the mall so it could remain open.

"Despite the construction, we're doing really well," said Amy Gammon, the store's assistant manager. "It was slower when we first moved, but it's picked up a lot."

The store offers its new video releases at \$3.69 per night and older releases at \$3 for five nights. Special deals offered to members include: rent two and get two free movies Sunday through Wednesday.

days and rent two movies free on Thursdays, too.

The store has a large selection of foreign films and is strong in film noir. El Cerrito Plaza. 510-524-3373.

Along the avenue

Along San Pablo Avenue, merchants asked about the future is good in El Cerrito.

Kiefer's Furniture

Kiefer's Furniture, 3500 Pablo Ave., has been open for 63 years and is well known. Store Manager said Store Manager. One of the factors Kiefer's strong is that he said

Kiefer's sells furniture, ion-oriented, new, and old homes that color the rooms. The store closed from El Cerrito, Richmond, North Berkeley, Richmond.

"We're specializing in

Please see MERCHANTS

El Cerrito Round Up

Advertising supplement to the Berkeley Voice and El Cerrito Journal

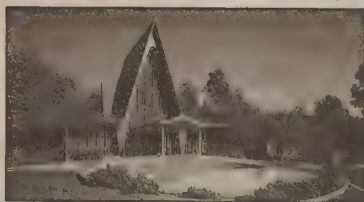
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Merchants

FROM PAGE 2

which most people want and are willing to pay for in this area. We don't have everything. But we find what works for this area," he said. "We mistakenly bust our rear ends to get the best value for the customer."

Kiefer said he has traveled to companies like one in North Carolina to find furniture specifically for his customers.

"It's a small company that makes

these small-sized chairs that look great. They have no one to represent the company on the West Coast so I had to go out to the company to find the chair," he said.

Kiefer estimates that the store has been a member of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce for nearly 60 years. Kiefer's grandfather started the business after he immigrated to the United States. 510-527-1511.

Darla's Baby Boutique

Not much farther north along San Pablo Avenue is Darla's Baby Boutique, at 10400 San Pablo Ave.



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RICHARD WION / TIMES STAFF

CLERK DARWIN MIRANDA AT KIT & CABOODLE helps hobbyist Ben Rono with his purchase.

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The large store at the corner of Stockton Street is along the section of the street that the City Council is considering making a downtown shopping district with historic-looking lighting streets and new trees.

Management at the store that stocks new and resale baby clothes, furniture and equipment say they can't complain about business — they are doing very well.

"We were already doing well but recently the Children's Exchange in Pinole closed and now we're getting their customers," said Nancy Sun, sales associate at Darla's.

Customers can bring in well-cared-for used clothing and sell it to get either 40 percent of the value in cash or 50 percent in store credit.

"Aside from it being a way for people to pick up a little extra money, it encourages people to keep their things nice," she said. "And it helps people who can't afford to go to the mall to buy more expensive items."

The staff at Darla's tries to help with every facet of bringing up baby including books, socks, shoes and accessories. And if they don't stock it, they will try to contact other stores to find it.

"We try to give extended customer service," said Sun. "We know that new moms and dads in are a world of their own sometimes so they get special handling." 510-526-5437.

Touring El Cerrito — from Castro adobe site to bay views

By David Weinstein
SPECIAL SECTIONS EDITOR

As El Cerrito Plaza goes, some say, so goes the town. That's an exaggeration, no doubt. But from its beginning, the site of the Plaza has been crucial to the town's development.

Here's a quick and by no means complete historical guide to El Cerrito, starting at the Plaza:

El Cerrito Plaza

A regional shopping center with a touch of history. San Pablo and Fairmount avenues.

The Junket Deli: Pausing at the Plaza's Junket Deli, with its shelf after shelf of pumpernickel bread, some from Germany, its sandwiches and fragrant cheeses, and its travel posters from the Rhine, is no mere diversion.

From our perch at the Junket we see where West County starts geographically, and where it started historically.

Cerrito Creek, which divides Contra Costa and Alameda counties, winds along the south side of the Plaza's parking lot, still unbuilt part of the way.

No longer visible is the Castro Adobe — the home of Victor Castro, whose father Francisco Maria Castro's Rancho San Pablo reached from Cerrito Creek north to San Pablo Bay.

Victor inherited the area near Albany Hill in 1831 and took up residence in a small adobe nearby, on a site occupied today by Wells Fargo Bank. Castro raised cattle and did a little farming on his property, and for a time operated a ferry on the Bay.

During the 1930s, the adobe was turned into a nightclub, the Rancho San Pablo. It was destroyed by fire in 1956. A plaque marks the spot.

Efforts are underway by the local group Celebrating Culture and Community, to commemorate the adobe, perhaps with a reconstruction of the adobe's long-lost fountain.

No plaque commemorates Blackjack Jerome's El Cerrito Kennel Club — better known as the dog track — which occupied the Plaza site from 1932 to 1939. The dog track, which occasionally featured ostrich races as well, was just one of many gambling establishments that gave El Cerrito a reputation as a rough and ready town through the '30s and '40s.

El Cerrito Plaza itself is of historical interest. Built in 1958, the open-air center became the city's largest shopping area and biggest provider of sales tax revenues.

San Pablo Avenue

The main drag.

Leaving the Plaza, we take a brief detour before cruising on the 2 1/2-mile length of San Pablo Avenue. Exiting the Plaza onto San



EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL, on Ashbury Avenue near Central, is one of the town's landmarks — and its only major Art Deco edifice.

Pablo Avenue, cross the avenue for a peek at the **Old West Gun Room** (3509 Carlson Blvd.), one of the wildest pieces of architecture in town. It's built of stone and decorated with antlers, ironwork and wagon wheels. The gun shop, which has been on the site for more than 25 years, was threatened by redevelopment, but spared when the developer backed out.

Continue on Carlson two blocks to the corner of Central to view the Bayview and Richmond Eagles Hall. In the bad old days this was **Big Bill Pechart's Wagon Wheel casino**, the most profitable of all the city's gambling halls.

From the early 1930s to 1947, with a few interruptions, gambling and nightclubs with entertainment filled the town.

In 1946 a recall election sponsored by the Good Government League ousted city officials who were soft on gambling. An anti-gambling law went on the books a year later.

Downtown

Around Central and Fairmount avenues.

El Cerrito may not have a real downtown, but it does have a homey block-long shopping area on San Pablo Avenue around Fairmount and Central avenues.

Perhaps El Cerrito's greatest artistic secret is hidden away in Kiefer

Furniture's warehouse. The warehouse, built originally as **The Cerrito movie house** in the 1930s and in use through the '50s (note the distinctive barrel-vaulted shape) contains beautiful art deco murals of Zeus and lithe, near-naked dancers, which remain in pretty good shape.

San Pablo Avenue

Some years back, an architectural critic writing for the East Bay Express listed El Cerrito's main drag as one of the ugliest places in the Bay Area.

That's going a bit far. But the avenue, with its string of small shopping centers and what plan-

ners call "auto related uses" — garages and fast-food — is far from the quaint downtown many people would prefer.

City officials themselves have

long been unhappy about much of the avenue.

Please see TOUR, Page 5

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DAVE WEINSTEIN / STAFF

THE NAVELLIER HOUSE, on Navellier Street north of Schmidt Lane, is an authentic old farmhouse and one of the oldest buildings in town, from early in the 20th Century.

and its refinery. The 18-hole course is 6,157 yards long and rated 68.7 from the regular tees.

Murieta Rock

Cutting Boulevard near Barrett. To really appreciate the view, clamber up the giant rocky outcrop that looms over Cutting, right where View and Scenic meet.

Legend has it that the outlaw Joaquin Murieta used the rock as a lookout when his gang was hidden away in the wilds of nearby Wildcat Canyon.

Other high points in El Cerrito?

Try **Camp Herms Boy Scout camp**, 1290 Boy Scout Road, hidden in a grove of trees above Arlington Park.

It is a sprawling facility with hiking trails, BB-gun and archery ranges, playing fields, cooking and shelter areas and a lodge.

A bit of history remains in the form of a beautiful stone-housed swimming pool.

The pool was built in 1939 through the Works Projects Administration and was designed after the Mayan water temple in India.

Before the Boy Scouts bought the property in 1929, it was part of a rock quarry. Rock from the quarry was carried by tram to the area

where the recycling center now stands, and used in projects throughout the Richmond area.

Arlington Boulevard

Arlington Boulevard is the main street of the hills, stretching from East Richmond Heights through El Cerrito into Kensington. There's much to see all along its El Cerrito stretch — most of the views are toward the Bay, Marin and San Francisco.

Hillside Natural Area

North of Moeres Lane, east of Navellier Street.

The Hillside Natural Area, spanning 40 acres of El Cerrito's steep landscape, is a place where a hiker can climb and feel completely alone.

El Cerrito began piecing together the park in the 1950s. The city used federal grant money to acquire some of the property, some promi-

Legend has it that the outlaw Joaquin Murieta used Murieta Rock as a lookout when his gang was hidden away in the wilds of nearby Wildcat Canyon.

Just below the Hillside area is the recycling center. El Cerrito is a pioneer in recycling. The city-owned and operated Recycling Center, in an old quarry, was founded in 1972.

Today it recycles bottles, aluminum and tin cans, scrap steel and scrap aluminum, mixed paper, office paper, cardboard, used car batteries, used car oil, magazines, plastic PET soda bottles, books (placed on shelves for perusal by would-be readers), and Christmas trees for a few weeks after Christmas.

The center also operates a curbside pickup service.



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The city of homes has a surprisingly shady past

TIMES STAFF

EL CERRITO — Like most of West County, El Cerrito was once part of Francisco Maria Castro's Rancho San Pablo. For his 13 years of military service, Castro was granted the cattle ranch in 1823. Its boundaries were marked by the shores of San Pablo in the north, and by a small round hill — "el cerrito" in Spanish — in the south.

The oak-crested hill, known today as Albany Hill, was a familiar landmark to travelers along the primitive trail that would one day be San Pablo Avenue.

When Castro died in 1831, the hill was inherited by his son Victor, who took up residence in a small adobe nearby. Over the years, Victor Castro enlarged the building until it contained 14 rooms and a second story encircled by a veranda.

The adobe, which later served as a tavern, was on a site currently occupied by El Cerrito Plaza. Before the Plaza was built the site was also home to a dog racing track and a drive-in theater.

Castro raised cattle and did a little farming on his property, and for a time operated a ferry service on the Bay.

Little by little, his estate began to dwindle. Squatters and lawyers chipped away at the rancho. Soon all that was left was his adobe and a few acres around it.

One of the first chunks of land that Castro sold was to farmer John Henry Davis and his wife, Sophia. Davis prospered, and in the 1860s he added a saloon to his 320-acre farm on what is now San Pablo Avenue.

In 1883 a German immigrant named William Rust established a blacksmith shop on land leased from Castro. His business proved so popular with local farmers that he soon expanded into a larger building on the site of today's Pastime Hardware. The small farm hamlet was known as "Rust."

Realtors George Schmidt and Anson Blake saw great potential in the location. In 1898 they opened Schmidt Village, the first residential

subdivision in El Cerrito.

In 1908, Joe Lavigne erected the lavish Grand Central Hotel, and residents built a 400-foot-long wooden sidewalk.

During World War I, the town's residents decided to incorporate. The movement was organized by George Barber and Frank Butterfield, building contractors who envisioned a profit windfall from hill-sides full of homes. The movement pitted residents against farmers and industry. Dairy men who had occupied the hills for years didn't want to be taxed for downtown

Please see **HISTORY**, Page 7



THE WELL-KNOWN BERKELEY MURAL ARTIST known as Stefen created a fabulous mural for Dr. Four Paws Pet Hospital, 1333 San Pablo Ave. This is only a detail of a mural that covers three walls of the shop and shows the Bay, Point Isabel, and old El Cerrito. Here we see the old Castro Adobe — the current site of El Cerrito Plaza.

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Story

AGES

ments they would rarely
ary officials, afraid new
and subdivisions would
their hillside operations,
opposed the plan.

County Board of Supervi-
rought an end to the fighting
ing a visit to the budding
They designated the city
sider, which included all of
the nearby village of
Jackson.

however, the tract along the bay
not included in the city limits,
all for the incorporation
the meadow. Today this area
of Richmond.

1917, the city legally incor-
ated. During the city's first elec-
tion Standard Oil employees
sits on the Board of Trustees,
of the oil industry's grow-
importance in West County.

settlements were located
to the north and south ends
of the city, and also at Stege. What
the Westridge School was once
a home for Chinese boys,
many Chinese worked at the
Marine Cap Works in Stege.

In the early 1930's, a new kind
of industry sprang up in El Cerrito,
and it went untouched by the
effects of the Depression; gam-
bling.

Throughout the 1930's, the
city's district attorney closed the
casinos, but they always re-
opened.

In 1939, state Attorney General
Warren decided to take real
action. With a mountain of evi-
dence, Warren gave Pechart and
others an ultimatum: "Pack up
and leave town or stay and have



RICHARD WION / STAFF

FATAPPLES anchors the Fairmount Avenue shopping strip, one of El Cerrito's more charming shopping districts, with a couple of cafes, a fine bookstore, Fairmount Antiques, and more.

your equipment burned." Pechart
and his slot machines disappeared.

The victory for anti-gambling
supporters was only temporary.
World War II created thousands of
jobs at Richmond's four shipyards.
San Pablo Avenue, with its flashy
clubs, welcomed shipyard workers
eager to unwind after 12-hour
shifts. Headliners such as Gypsy
Rose Lee and Nat "King" Cole
played to packed houses in the
1940s. Gambling returned.

1946 was a year of decision for
El Cerrito. A recall election spon-
sored by the Good Government
League ousted city officials who
were soft on gambling. An anti-
gambling law went on the books a
year later.

New homes and commercial
development kept pace with the
population growth of the 1950s. In
1958, El Cerrito Plaza shopping
center opened, replacing a drive-
in movie that had been built on the
site of Jerome's dog track.

In 1972, the city's two BART
stations opened. In the 1980s, El
Cerrito mounted a program of re-
sidential and commercial develop-
ment through its Redevelopment
Agency, which bore fruit with such
projects as the Target store, the Del
Norte Place housing and retail
complex and the Home Depot.

The big news in town today is
the reconstruction of El Cerrito
Plaza. City officials hope a revived
shopping center will spur growth
of a real downtown.

Some popular city parks

Hillside Natural Area. Cov-
ers about 40 acres, some very
steep, and is a place where a hiker
can climb and feel completely
alone.

There are outstanding views of

the Bay, the opportunity to en-
counter deer and raccoons, and
places to sit and dream by gur-
gling seasonal creeks.

There are many entrances to
the park, including from the city's

Recycling Center at the end of
Schmidt Lane.

Cerrito Vista Park. Provides
ballfields, tennis courts, and a
place to toss a Frisbee on Moeser
Lane. It's across the street from
the city's **Community Center**,
which has two pools and offers
classes and activities.

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